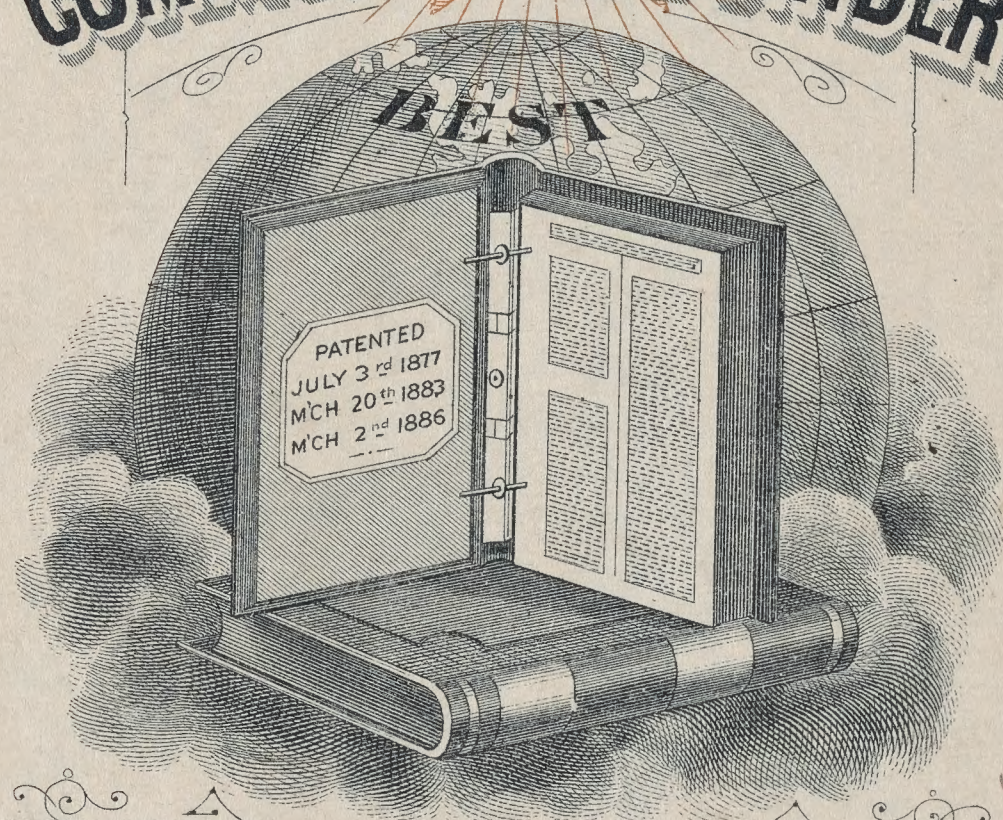


THREE JOURNEYS FROM POWHATAN COUNTY  
VIRGINIA, TO KENTUCKY-1785-1797.

BY REV. JAMES SMITH.-



# SHIPMAN'S COMMON-SENSE BINDER



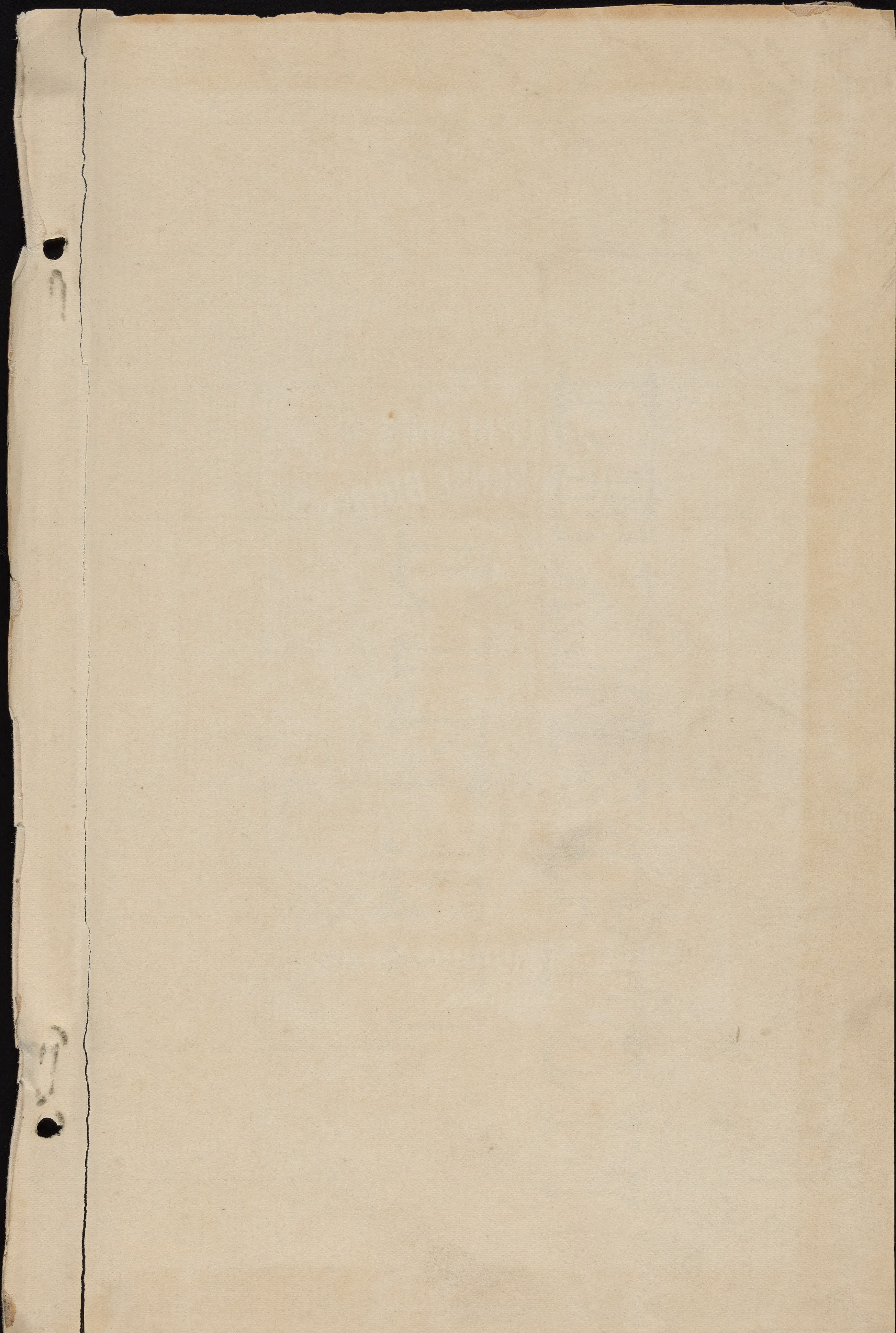
Lay the papers on front cover, opposite the fasteners when raised to an erect position, then mark with pencil opposite fasteners and with a sharp instrument punch holes about  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch from back of book or papers to be bound.

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EXCURSUS.—THE SMITH FAMILY OF POWHATAN CO., VIRGINIA.

Communicated by FRANK C. GOODE, Esq., of Springfield, O.

ELIZABETH SMITH, the wife of BURWELL GOODE, 176, was the daughter of Rev. James Smith, of Powhatan Co., Va. She was born in Powhatan Co., January 29, 1787, and is said to have been in her youth possessed of much beauty. She was noted for her energetic, business-like habits, of which the following

circumstance, related by one of her brothers to his son, is an illustration. Upon her mother's plantation in Virginia was a "sugar camp," where, one Spring during a fine "run" of sap, Elizabeth remained with her brother during an entire week, without once going to the house, assisting in the making of the sugar. The water had to be boiled constantly, both day and night, and in performing this work the brother and sister alternated until the crop was saved.

She was a faithful member of her church, devoted to her family, exceedingly hospitable, and attached to all her kinsmen and friends; especially to such as were of the families of the early settlers of Ohio. She died Oct. 7, 1863, surviving her husband about 22 years. Her remains, as well as those of her husband, her parents, and many others of both families, rest in the beautiful cemetery at Corwin, within a short distance of her husband's home, the land being part of the original Goode farm.

That branch of the family or race of Smith to which Mrs. Goode belonged

In 1843. Judge James M. Smith visited the home farm in Powhatan, owned at that time by George W. Porter.  
"The dwelling house then in use was built almost entirely from the timbers and lumber taken from the old house built by Thomas Smith (2d generation) about 1760.-70., and the same door and window frames were in the new house. with the identical nails in them which were driven when the house was constructed, to hang watches &c. on. - All these were preserved and guarded by the Porter family with scrupulous care. We also saw in the foundation of the barn, which stands a short distance from the house, several bricks with the name of J. Smith on them, made by James Smith (3d generation) in his boyhood before the bricks were burned. The farm spoken of lies a mile or two from the James River, about 20 miles above Richmond, and in a beautiful country. Near it is the little settlement known as Mannakee. - The Y. Ind. language was still in common use in that neighborhood when James Smith left Virginia for the West."



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That branch of the family or race of Smith to which Mrs. Goode belonged are the descendants of GEORGE SMITH, of Virginia, of whom little more is known than that as a young man he left his home in the extreme eastern part of the state, about the end of the seventeenth century, and moved westward, locating near to and east of the Blue Ridge: probably near the future home of his descendants in Powhatan and adjoining counties. The tradition is that he was a mighty hunter, his worldly possessions when he left home consisting of a buffalo robe, tomahawk, gun and knife. He became wealthy and left to his son large <sup>a</sup> ~~property~~ <sup>property</sup> ~~tracts of land~~ on the James River, in Chesterfield and Powhatan Counties, about twenty miles above Richmond. This son was THOMAS SMITH, who lived and died upon these ancestral estates, parts of which including the old buildings, were, not many years ago, owned by some of his descendants. (in 1893 by George W. Pomeroy.)

Thomas Smith was able to leave each of his six children a fine farm and a considerable number of slaves. He and his family were originally members of the Church of England, but when Methodism was introduced into Virginia in 1772, they were among the first members of the new sect. (See note on the Hayes Family p. 83, and on Philip Goode, pp. 80-81, also note on p. 50). Two of his sons, however, became Baptist preachers. It is stated that Mr. Smith's home was the home of the early preachers, and that here was held the conference of 1780.\*

He was married three times, and by each marriage had one son and one daughter. His first wife, a Miss Rapin, bore him George Rapin Smith, known in the family as "Millpond George," and Judith, who afterwards married a Mr. Guerrant, a son by a former marriage of the lady who became Mr. Smith's third wife. From George Rapin Smith was descended Gen. Geo. R. Smith, formerly of Kentucky, afterwards of Missouri, and founder of the City of Sedalia, where he died about 1879.

The second wife of Thomas Smith was a Miss Stovall, who became the

\*This conference was held at the Huguenot settlement of Manakin Town. Hence it appears probable that the Smith homestead was there situate. G. B. G.



mother of George Stovall Smith, and Elizabeth, who married Philip Gatch.\* George Stovall Smith moved from Virginia about 1780, and settled in Jas-samin County, Ky., in which state he has to-day a numerous posterity. One of his sons was probably John Steed Smith, M. C., b. 1792, d. 1854. From Mr. and Mrs. Gatch are descended a large family, residing mostly in southern Ohio, chiefly in Clermont County.

Thomas Smith's third marriage was with a Mrs. Guerrant, a widow, (her maiden name Margaret Trabue), of Huguenot descent, whose son was with Gen. Washington at Valley Forge. The children of this marriage were James Smith, the father of Mrs. Burwell Goode, and Martha who married Peter Sublett, and whose numerous descendants, of that name, reside in and near Richmond, Va.

JAMES SMITH, was born upon his father's plantation in Powhatan Co., Sept. 17, 1757. He and his brothers became preachers. He belonged originally to the Methodist Episcopal Church, but joined in a secession from that communion, which was headed by a Mr. O'Reilly, whose adherents were known as Republican Methodists. It is not believed that he ever had any definite pastoral charge.

He was a man of extreme conscientious scruples, and fervent piety. He ~~was~~ warmly opposed to the ~~system~~ <sup>institution</sup> of slavery, and convinced that the evils resulting from that institution threatened the safety of his state and the nation, and for many years prior to his removal from Virginia, seems to have been intent upon removing to a country where slavery did not exist.

Before his final removal from the state he made three trips to the west, the first in 1785, when he visited Kentucky, going by way of Cumberland Gap; again, in 1795, he journeyed to that state going a part of the way by flatboat down the Kenawha and Ohio Rivers, and on this occasion extended his trip into Ohio, proceeding up the valley of the Great Miami, to Fort Hamilton, the site of the present city of the same name; and in 1797, he undertook a third expedition, in the course of which he again visited the country now comprised in both these states, and this time traveling up the little Miami valley to the site of the Indian town of Chillicothe, near the present city of Xenia.

During each of these journeys he kept a journal, which document is still extant in the hands of one of his descendants.† The history of his travels and his reflections upon various topics as recorded in this book are of absorbing interest, and the work is of considerable literary merit. As might be supposed his several journeys, particularly the first, were attended with much hardship and some danger.

His experience of life in the wilderness, however, seemed only to stimulate his desire to escape with his family from the evil associations, as he deemed them, which were engendered by slavery.

Immediately on his return from the last of these trips he purchased a tract of land of about 2000 acres, lying on the Little Miami, at the mouth of Caesar's

\*Rev. Philip Gatch, known also as Judge Gatch, was born in Maryland, Mar. 2, 1751, entered the Methodist ministry, 1774, and labored with great zeal and success in the middle states and Virginia: removed in 1798, to a point near Cincinnati, where, after a long and useful life, he died Dec. 28, 1835.

†Judge J. M. Smith, of Lebanon, has the MS., and a copy is in the possession of the writer of this sketch.

\* On this trip he was accompanied by his brother, Thomas Porter

MSS  
1721 B  
SCDIRB

Some of their former slaves went with them, and as Edward Smith (Uncle Ned) and in 1849 on a farm of 200 acres which he owned.

Creek, and but a few miles distant from the land soon after to become the home of Philip Goode, and his brethren. He settled his affairs in Virginia, emancipated all his slaves,\* and in 1798, he and his family bade final adieu to their old home, and in company with the family of their kinsman Gatch, started for the territory north-west of the Ohio. After a journey of extreme diffi-

brother in law.  
Philip.

## Journal of a Traveller from Virginia to Kentucky →

Youngest son but seventeen years old. About Christmas of 1800, a log house having by this time been completed on their own land some forty miles further up the river, they moved thither and took up their abode. Being almost the first settlers in that neighborhood, they experienced the privations of pioneer life in their extremest rigour, suffering inconveniences and hardships which none but a pioneer's widow and her fatherless children can know. This was near the home occupied in 1877 by Cyrus Smith.

Here Mrs. Smith continued to reside until her death in 1825, and on this land several of the descendants still live.

### FIRST GENERATION.

I. GEORGE SMITH, mentioned above as the progenitor of the family, born probably, 1660-1680.

### SECOND GENERATION.

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| m. 1. Mrs. Robin | Mrs. Margaret Trabue. |
| 2. Mrs. Small    |                       |
| 3. Mrs. Guerrant |                       |

son of the foregoing, born 1700-20.

He was accompanied by Mr. Small, a friend from Virginia. They crossed the Ohio River at Augusta, passed through what is now Clermont County to the Little Miami and thence up the river to Xenia, passing near where Lebanon now is, up to about Radgely, thence to Waynesville, and to Oldham, above Xenia. On his return he went to what is now Chillicothe, in what is now Ross Co., and thence south to Ky again.

of her father's  
the wife

Porter  
and in 1843  
the old plantation.

Harris Survey No 528 - a  
valuing land grants to Major  
the Harris of (Powhatan Co?) Va







mother of George Stovall Smith, and Elizabeth, who married Philip Gatch.\* George Stovall Smith moved from Virginia about 1780, and settled in Jassamin County, Ky., in which state he has to-day a numerous posterity. One of his sons was probably John Steed Smith, M. C., b. 1792, d. 1854. From Mr. and Mrs. Gatch are descended a large family, residing mostly in southern Ohio, chiefly in Clermont County.

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He was accompanied on the journey by his brother "William Gatch"

where he visited his brother George S. Smith.

and this done, the river to its mouth

MSS  
1721 B  
SCDIRB

Some of their former slaves went with them, and as ~~Edward Smith~~ (Uncle Ned) died in 1849 in a ~~farm~~ of 200 acres which he owned.

Creek, and but a few miles distant from the land soon after to become the home of Philip Goode, and his brethren. He settled his affairs in Virginia, emancipated all his slaves, and in 1798, he and his family bade final adieu to their old home, and in company with the family of their ~~kinsman~~ Gatch, started for the territory north-west of the Ohio. After a journey of extreme difficulty they arrived at length, in the vicinity of Milford, Ohio, and took up the ir temporary abode upon a farm at Middletown Station, Hamilton County, until suitable arrangements could be made to occupy their own land. Mr. Smith however, did not live to take possession of it, but died at Middletown Station, July 28, 1800. A touching notice of his death and burial occurs in Chief-justice McLean's sketch of Rev. Philip Gatch.

At the time of their arrival in Ohio, the family consisted of two sons and six daughters; another son, George J. Smith, was born soon after their arrival at Middletown.

Upon the death of her husband the widow was left with nine children, the youngest a babe, and the oldest son but seventeen years old. About Christmas of 1800, a log house having by this time been completed on their own land some forty miles further up the river, they moved thither and took up their abode. Being almost the first settlers in that neighborhood, they experienced the privations of pioneer life in their extremest rigour, suffering inconveniences and hardships which none but a pioneer's widow and her fatherless children can know. <sup>This was near the house occupied in 1877 by Cyrus Smith.</sup>

Here Mrs. Smith continued to reside until her death in 1825, and on this land several of the descendants still live.

## FIRST GENERATION.

1. GEORGE SMITH, mentioned above as the progenitor of the family, born probably, 1660-1680.

## SECOND GENERATION.

2. THOMAS SMITH, of Powhatan Co., son of the foregoing, born 1700-20.  
Children:-  
3. REV. GEORGE RAPIN SMITH. 4. JUDITH, m. Mr. Guerrant. 5. REV. GEORGE STOVALL, moved to Kentucky, about 1780. 6. ELIZABETH, m. Philip Gatch. 7. JAMES. 8. MARTHA, m. Peter Sublett.

## THIRD GENERATION.

7. REV. JAMES SMITH, of Powhatan Co., b. Sept. 17, 1757, died July 28, 1800, m. Mar. 19, 1779, Elizabeth, dau. of John and Sarah Watkins Porter, b. Dec. 6, 1762. (Children) - sister of Thomas, and Aunt of George W. Porter who died in 1843 the old plantation.  
8. SARAH SMITH, m. 1801, Ichabod Halsey. 9. THOMAS SMITH. 10. JOHN W. 11. ELIZABETH, m. Burwell Goode. 12. MAGDALEN, m. 1808, Robert Sale. 13. MARTHA, m. 1816, William O'Neal. 14. JUDITH, m. Hiram Brown. 15. CYNTHIA, b. Sept. 19, 1796; d. Aug. 24, 1818, unm. 16. GEORGE JAMES.

A grandson of No. 1, was probably Meriwether Smith, of Va., M. C. 1778-82, g. s. also of Francis Meriwether, emigrant from Wales to Va., was related to Philip Goode, No. 171, either through the Hayes or Collier families. His son,

3. Rev. George Rapin Smith, m. Miss Guerrant, dau. of his father's 2d wife.

brother in law.

Philip.

Judge Smith says:- Grandfather first halted at Columbia, near the mouth of the Little Miami, in which is now Hamilton Co. O., and the family remained here, or near Newbury for about two years.

He was buried in the Gatch family graveyard at Milford, but in 1887 his remains were removed to the Miami Cemetery at Waynesville.



Gov. George W. Smith, was burned in the Richmond Theatre, 1811; another son, who m. a niece of President Monroe, lived on a farm in Ohio adjoining that first occupied by Goode brothers, Nos. 171-180, and his wife's sister, Lucy Monroe, taught the children of their families. They claimed relationship with the Goodes, and called Philip Goode, No. 171, cousin. There was probably another kinship through the Hayes family.

## FOURTH GENERATION.

The names of the members of the fourth generation from George Smith, second from Rev. James Smith, and of their immediate descendants who reached majority are:—

8. SARAH SMITH, b. 1781, d. 1842, m. 1801, ~~Isaac~~ <sup>J. B.</sup> Halsey. Children:—  
 17. JAMES S. HALSEY, for many years Probate Judge of Clark Co., O.  
 18. BENTON, and 19, MARTHA, m. Isaac Jennings, both of Plymouth, Ind. 20. MARY, m. Gen. Charles Anthony, a leading lawyer of the past generation, and 21, DANIEL, journalist, both of Springfield, O. — a 1849.
9. THOMAS SMITH, b. 1783, d. 1841, married Mary Whitehill, Feb. 6. 1817, (See Whitehill Genealogy, in next Excursus). Children:—  
 22. JOSEPH W., and 23, JAMES GEORGE, both of Warren Co., O. 24. JOHN QUINCY, State Senator and Representative in Ohio legislature, 1860-3, member Congress, 1873-4, U. S. Commissioner Indian affairs, 1875-7, and Consul general of U. S. in Canada, 1878-82. He is also a distinguished writer and speaker upon political economy, being a radical advocate of free trade. 25. WILLIAM F. 26. MARY JANE, m. Moses N. Collett, of Warren Co., O., and 27. THOMAS E., of Paola, Kans. — m. Sarah Evans.
10. JOHN W. SMITH, of Warren Co., O., born 1783, d. 1841. Children:—  
 28. JAMES. 29. GEORGE E., and 30, SARAH, m. Isaac Rosebury, all of Warren Co. 31. REBECCA, m. William B. McClellan, of Virginia. 32. CYRUS, and 33, JOSHUA, of Warren Co., the latter in 79th O. Regiment, who made the campaign of Atlanta and march to the sea, and 34, PHILIP, of Grinnell, Iowa.
11. ELIZABETH SMITH, the wife of BURWELL GOODE, (See Goode Genealogy, No. 176). (by Rev. John Sale, his father)
12. MAGDALEN SMITH, b. 1789, d. 1839, m. 1808, Robert Sale, of Warren Co. Children:—  
 35. JOHN, of Warren Co., Ind. 36. THOMAS, lawyer, of Paris, Ill. 37. GEORGE. 38. ELIZABETH. 39. CYNTHIA, m. James Chenowith, all of Warren Co., O. 40. CAROLINE, m. Dakin Vanderbaugh, of Virginia. 41. MINERVA, m. William Smith, of Indiana. — a July 1874.
13. MARTHA SMITH, b. 1791, d. <sup>Jan 18</sup> 1873, m. 1816, William O'Neill. Children, (all of Warren Co., O.):— (m. by Rev. Bennett Maxey).  
 42. JAMES S., whose son, Joseph W. O'Neill, of Lebanon, is at present a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. 43. J. KELDY, lawyer and prominent free mason. 44. ABIJAH P., and 45. GEORGE T.



(May 29, 1817 by Rev. John Dale)

THE WHITEHILL FAMILY.

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14. JUDITH SMITH, b. 1794, d. 1858, m. *Hiram Brown*,\* of Indianapolis, Ind., in 1817. Children, (all of whom resided at Indianapolis except Mrs. McKay):—
46. ELIZA, m. *J. C. John*. 47. MINERVA, m. *Hon. Albert G. Porter*, Member of Congress, Comptroller of Treasury, Governor of Indiana, etc. 48. MATILDA, m. *J. T. McKay*, of Lebanon, O. (See McKay Excursus, on p. 92, No. 27). 49. MARTHA, m. *Samuel Dalzell*. 50. IGNATIUS. 51. DR. H. C. BROWN. 52. JAMES. 53. MARY, m. *Burton Jones*.
16. HON. GEORGE J. SMITH, of Lebanon, O., b. 1799, d. 1878, an able and distinguished lawyer and Judge. He read law with Thomas Corwin; was admitted to practice in 1820; was representative in general assembly, 1825-7; president Judge Com. Pleas Court, 1829-56; State Senator, 1836-40, serving as speaker in 1837; in 1850, was elected senatorial delegate to the convention which framed the present Constitution of Ohio, rendering conspicuous service in that body; and from 1859 to 1869, served two additional terms as Judge. He was one of the most noted and respected men in Ohio, and was particularly interested in all that pertained to pioneer history. He married in 1822, *Hannah Whitehill*,\* (see Whitehill Genealogy below). Children, (all of Lebanon):—
54. HON. JAMES M. SMITH, long honored as one of the ablest of living Judges in Ohio; from 1871 to 1885, Judge of the Common Pleas, and at present Judge of the 1st (Cincinnati) Circuit Court. 55. GEORGE W. 56. JOHN E., a prominent lawyer of southern Ohio. 57. HARRIET.

The facts embodied in this sketch were communicated by Judge J. M. Smith and Hon. J. Q. Smith, of Ohio. A Smith Family Reunion was held Sept. 2, 1882, at the residence of G. T. O'Neill, Esq., near Waynesville, O., which was attended by seventy-five of the descendants of Rev. James and Elizabeth Smith. A notice of this meeting, together with the address of J. E. Smith, Esq., may be found in the *Lebanon Gazette*, of Sept. 9, 1882.

EXCURSUS.—THE WHITEHILL FAMILY.

JAMES WHITEHILL, the ancestor of the American Whitehills, was of Scotch descent, but whether born in Scotland, or in the north of Ireland, (whither he or his parents had first emigrated,) or in the state of Pennsylvania is not certainly known.

One of his grandchildren was heard to say that she used to see, when a child, in her grandfather's house in Pennsylvania, a painting of the arms of Lord Stair, and was told that her family descended from the author of the Glencoe massacre, or his father, the elder Dalrymple.

He was born in 1700, and married Miss Criswell, in 1728. Three of his five sons were Members of Congress from Pennsylvania 1805-14, viz: JOHN, (b. 1720, d. 1815.), ROBERT (d. 1813), and JAMES, (d. 1822).

\*Brother of HON. MILTON BROWN, M. C. from Tennessee, 1841-7, and member of the Confederate Congress; the author in 1845, of the resolution for incorporating Texas into the Union.

\* Widow of Thomas Yimman, and mother of Susan Jones Yimman, m. 1838. John Probasco, Jr. (children, Emma, Mary and Samuel.).



In McMaster's "History of the People of the United States," the name of Mr. Whitehill (one of the above), is frequently mentioned as a leader in the Pennsylvania legislature.

Robert was the great-grandfather of J. Q. A. Ward, the sculptor.

Joseph Whitehill, the tenth child and youngest son of James, (b. 1746). This son inherited or otherwise acquired the old family home and about four hundred acres of land: and also engaged in business as a merchant at Lancaster. He married in 1780, Mary Kenedy, dau. of Thomas Kenedy and *Rachel Clark*, born 1761.

Through the mismanagement of a business partner, Joseph Whitehill lost his property and land, and about 1800, moved to Botetourt Co., Va., where he lived upon a farm until his death in 1808. His widow died in 1810. The bodies of both lie in the old Presbyterian burying ground at Fincastle.

There were born to them ten children, three sons and seven daughters. The oldest son remained in Pennsylvania. The second son, Joseph, during the war of 1812, was a Lieutenant in a militia company raised in Botetourt Co., and during the campaign at Norfolk, became Captain.

In 1815, the surviving members of the family moved to Ohio, settling in Warren Co. Beside Joseph there came his six sisters and one brother, the latter, however, dying in the first year after removal.

Two of these sisters, viz: Mary (b. Oct. 19, 1788), and Hannah (b. Nov. 28, 1790), married, respectively, Thomas Smith and Judge George James Smith, (see Smith Excursus, pp. 168-9).

Susannah (b. Oct. 29, 1792), m. 1817, John Tate, and left a large family who reside in Southern Ohio, excepting two sons, James S. and David Morris, prominent and successful grain merchants residing in New York and Chicago, respectively. Rachel married Dr. Morris, of Lebanon. Rebecca, b. in Lancaster Co., Pa., Oct. 21, 1796, d. April 13, 1838, m. Nov. 9, 1824, William Cowan, a native of Pennsylvania, who died April 28, 1834, aged 34, and had a daughter Elizabeth, who married Judge James S. Goode, No. 474.

Neither Joseph Whitehill nor his sister Jane ever married. The former was twice elected Sheriff of Warren Co., and afterwards served four terms as representative in the state legislature. In 1834, he was elected Treasurer of State, an office he continued to hold through successive re-elections, for twelve years. Mr. Whitehill and his sister Jane moved to Columbus in 1834, and resided there, universally esteemed and respected, until the death of the former in 1861. Miss Whitehill, who was the eldest of the family coming to Ohio, and whom all the others regarded as a kind of second mother, was a woman of noble traits and great intelligence. She died in 1865, in Springfield.

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BURWELL SMITH GOODE, of Cincinnati, O., son of Burwell and *Elizabeth Smith* Goode, No. 176, p. 88, was born Aug. 9, 1830, and died Mar. 21, 1864. Married, June 29, 1852, Hannah Inghram Rine-



JOURNALS  
OF  
A LATE TRAVELLER

Through

Virginia, Kentucky, The Territory Northwest of Ohio  
and The Territory Southwest of Ohio.


First Journey ~~1st. from~~ - Oct 1. Dec 22. 1785

Second Journey ~~Second from~~ - BEGINNING

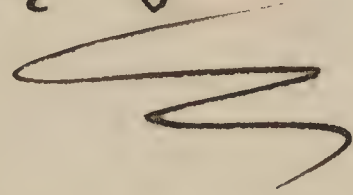
October the 4th. 1795

and

Continued to the 23d. of December

3d Journey  following.  
Aug. 31. - Nov. 12. 1797.

" And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true. — "

By Rev James Smith  




By the Wilderness Road.

## FIRST JOURNEY

About ~~1785~~ Having long had a desire to see that ~~new~~ fam'd western Country (To Witte) Kentucky, and conscious to myself that I should never rest well satisfied till I did see it, occasioned me to fix a determination if God should spare me to travel to that far—distant Territory, fully to satisfy my restless curiosity and also to enable me the more Effectually to determine concerning my future proceedings.

George Rabin Smith, half brother of the author by his first wife.

The time having at length arrived When we had appointed to start (Viz) Brother George and myself I accordingly fix'd and left home about 3 o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday the 1st Day of October, I came to Brother George's that night In order to start from there in the morning. —————

[Near "the Millpond", and not far from Manakem mry.]

Thursday the 2nd Brother George & I set out about 11 o'clock we rode on slowly & reached Bro Peter Guerrant's about 10 at night.

Friday the 3d. We started about 12 from Bro. Peter Guerrants and arrived at Bro. R. Mosely's about Sunset.

[x. In Western Poubaton or Cumberland.]

Sat. the 4th We lay by, & Bro. Geo. having an appoint-

① Peter Guerrant was probably the half-brother of the author. His mother, Margaret Gray, married (1) Mr Guerrant. by whom she had a daughter who married George R. Smith, the eldest son of her second husband by his first marriage, and a son who married Judith Smith, daughter by the same marriage. —

-Robert Mosely is also spoken of as "brother," and it may be that he ~~was~~ was the husband of another Guerrant sister.

Evening which he complied with.

I was surprized to see so many people Collected with so short notice the greater part of whom seemed to possess that inestimable treasure of God's love, tho as to the Riches of this world their



By the Wilderness Road.

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*George Rabin Smith, half brother of John Paulson by his first wife.*

The time having at length arrived When we had appointed to start (Viz) Brother George and myself I accordingly fix'd and left home about 3 o'clock in the afternoon on Wednesday the 1st Day of October, I came to Brother George's that night In order to start from there in the morning. —————

*[Near "the millpond", and not far from Manassas river.]*

Thursday the 2nd. Brother George & I set out about 11 o'clock we rode on slowly & reached Bro Peter Guerrant's about 10 at night.

Friday the 3d. We started about 12 from Bro. Peter Guerrants and arrived at Bro. R. Mosely's about Sunset —————

*[x. In Western Part of a Cumberland.]*

Sat. the 4th We lay by, & Bro. Geo. having an appointment preach'd according to a small, tho well behav'd Congregation, after meeting we fix'd such of our things as were out of order that nothing might prevent our early starting in the morning——

Sunday the 5th. We started from Rob't Moseley's and came to Main yards Church, here also Bro Geo had appointed to preach which he did, but the auditory, (tho small) Behav'd extremely bad so that preaching seemed to have but little effect — After preaching, we rode on for 8 miles to Wm. Bradley's in the upper end of Buckingham, who insisted on Bro George's preaching again in the Evening which he complied with.

I was surprized to see so many people Collected with so short notice the greater part of whom seemed to possess that inestimable treasure of God's love, tho as to the Riches of this world their



part appeared to be very small.

Monday the 6th we set out about 8 o'clock here we were over-taken by John Moss so that we were now (including Manuel) four in Number: we reached Mr Stovalls about 12 where got some refreshments both for ourselves & horses and afterwards rode on to Stephen Sorrows. \* *[In Appomattox, or the eastern part of Campbell Co]*

Tuesday the 7th We started from Stephen Sorrows pretty early & about 10 o'clock Passed thro New London. \* *[This town's situation is high, from hence a most beautiful view of those remarkable Mountains called the peaks, \* *[The Peaks of Otter]* presents itself to the curious beholder, from hence also, the cloud-capp'd summits of the lofty ridge extending itself in a continued chain from south to north renders the curiosity still more agreeable & delightful, we pushed on and took up camp in the woods near the head of them. \* *[\* Probably near Biggs Gap, where the main road passes through the Blue Ridge, about 30 miles W. of New Market, and near the line between Stafford and Shenandoah Co.]**

About 10 oclock at night it began to rain and continued raining all night attended with dreadful hard winds, which occasioned us a very disagreeable night's lodging ———

Wednesday the 8th the wind ceased a little in the morning and we set forward, but before we had rode far, the dreadfulest storm came on that I ever rode thro in my life, the amazing quantity of trees that were continually falling round us render'd our riding Extremely dangerous: we were at length constrain'd to call at a house where we tarried till the wind ceased when we then again set forward, but we had not Gone far before the wind arose again which was the occasion of our having a very unpleasant ride But at length we safely arrived at a house on Glade creek where we stayed the night. *[\* In the eastern part of Roanoke Co.]*

*Of the Big Lick.*

Thursday the 9th The wind having ceas'd the waether became clear & calm when we again started from our lodgings and soon after Passed the Big Lick \* (So called) Tho its present situation appears to have more the resemblance of a Pond than a Lick being *[\* Seven miles east of Salem, in Roanoke Co.]*



fed by brackish waters causing it to be a continued Pond both summer & winter Which I suppose was the cause of so great resort of Oatter in former times for if a person may be allowed to Judge from the appearance of this place he must Allow that many Thousand Ton of Earth have been carried from hence by Wild Creatures before the Settlement of the Country, it being considerably lower than the common Surface of the Earth and the water in many parts a considerable Depth. Its extent I suppose is above a Quarter of a mile in length & half that distance in Width. It is fabled of this place that it has the property of Infecting those that are much about it, with the ague, for which cause, strangers are not desirous of making any tarry (or as little as possible) about the place.

We rode on about 15 miles forward and another curiosity presents itself to our view (viz) in the low grounds near the head of Roanoke river, we came to a large creek to appearance (tho' nothing but a spring branch) in riding up which about 300 yards we came to the head which is no other than a perfect boiling spring arising out of a flat part of the Earth & as clear as Christal (it being of the limestone kind) which I fully believe affords water more than sufficient for a large merch t mill. We rode on about 3 miles further and took up camp in the woods near the head of Roanoke.

*[\* In Montgomery Co.]*  
*[\* Alleghany Spring ?]*  
*[\* 3 or 4 miles E. of present site of Christiansburg.]*  
 Friday the 10th we started early & soon came to the

spring head of Roanoke river. We then ascended the Allegania Mountains and after passing the huge chain of inaccessible mountains bid adieu to all the Eastern waters. We rode on thro a barren & broken Country & arrived at New River in the afternoon. This river is about 300 yards over as we were Informed & is exceeding furious

& rapid: there is at this crossing both a ferry & Ford, but the river being fuller than usual rendered it very deep fording, however, we being unacquainted with the Depth of the Water put in to ford it, but the water being both very deep & strong, we were ap-



prehensive we had not hit the ford & so turned about & went in at another place but to no better purpose for the water was nearly up to the saddle skirts the greater part of the way. But we pushed forward and happily reached the western shore thinking ourselves well off with only wet legs and feet. We rode about 3 miles forward & took up at Coles Tavern. \* *[In Pulaski Co., about 4 miles east of the Court House]*

Saturday the 11th we rode about 35 miles and took up in the evening at Thompson's Tavern. \* *[at or not far from the head entry of Wytheville Town in Wythe Co.]*

Sunday the 12th We rode through the upper end of both Montgomery & Washington Counties and in travelling down Holstein passed thro some tolerable good land. We took up in the evening at a Mr Fendley's who used us Extremely well. *[In the eastern part of Washington Co., where the Fendleys were old settlers. - Perhaps not far from Emory & Henry]*

Monday the 13th Mr Fendley, having just returned from Kentucky gave us the following Information (Viz) That some Indian Traders at the Chickeymogeey Nation had sent express to Col. Martin superintendent of Indian affairs residing at the Long Islands on Holstein, informing him that a body of Indians in number about 150 had started from the nation, &, it was conjectured that their destination was either for the Kentucky Road or the Cumberland Settlement, That the Like Information had been Dispatched to Col. Ben. Logan at Kentucky. In consequence of which Col. Logan had ordered a body of 150 men to Guard the Road as far as Cumberland Mountain. Mr Fendley informed us farther that a considerable number of horese had been stolen on the Kentucky Road and that one company just before the one he came with had lost horses & several other companies had lost horses likewise.

On receiving the above information we judg'd it advisable to collect as large a company as we could and accordingly appointed the Thursday following to rendezvous at the Block house, by which time we judg'd a considerable would be called together. We then started from Mr Fendley's and took up at <sup>Y Thomas</sup> ~~The~~ Caldwell's about a Mile



This was on the ascending route of Boone  
old Ready Creek trail.

The camp was at or near the shore  
where Moccasin Creek enters the north fork  
of the Wolf River.

See note in  
the appendix.



beyond Washington Court House. [Abingdon]

Tuesday the 14th We started late travel'd but slow and took up at night with ~~Mis~~ Fowler & Bray where they had lay encamped about 3 Weeks waiting for the rest of their company.

Wednesday the 15th we lay by all day in order to rest our horses and provide ourselves with necessaries to carry us thro the wilderness and accordingly got about 30 lbs of Flour 1/2 Bushel Corn Meal & 3 Bushels of oats and having provided ourselves thus determined to start Early (in the ) Morning for the Block house \*  
[~~Somebody near Hobbs, from a hampshire Co.~~ \* Blacks Fort, in the Wolf Mills]

Thursday the 16th We started pretty early and arrived at the Block house about 1 or 2 o'clock, but we found ourselves altogether disappointed as to finding company for not a man was there travelling to Kentucky neither cou'd we hear of any that were before. However we push'd forward and in the evening overtook Mr S. Taylor with whom we encamped about 4 Miles above Mockerson Gap. \*

[~~A gap in the Clinch Mountain, about 10 miles N.W. of Abingdon~~]

Friday the 17th Thro' neglect, having omitted to stretch our tent and having made our fire in an open place, When we arose in the Morning our bed covering was as wet with the dew as if a small shower of rain had fallen on it. My head seem'd much clogged up But as yet I felt no other bad effect. We fix'd off cross'd Clinch and rode up the same about 2 Miles. The water of this river  
[~~Clinch River.~~ \* ~~to make of Trade Creek?~~]  
is the clearest that I ever saw, in riding along up the river we could with perfect plainness, see fish which I suppose were several feet under water & the bottom which I suppose was 8 or 10 feet deep was as plain to be seen as it would on the Eastern waters where it is not clay, we travelled on in an Exceeding bad road and about 1 o'clock made a stop to let our horses feed. I then turned out a hunting and ascended a very high mountain which fatigued me very much \*

[~~Doubtless in the same Co.~~]

On my return I was immediately taken unwell with a fever which increased all the afternoon. Nevertheless I pursued my journey and



"Martins Cebra" <sup>u</sup> Bountiful P.O.



about the middle of the afternoon cross'd Powell's Mountain which is the worst, both for length and steepness that we have hitherto passed. After passing this 6 or 7 Miles we were again obstructed in our passage by another lesser mountain the exceeding steep and rocky which we without much difficulty ascended But descent being much steeper than the ascent and likewise much rockier. Night having overtaken us and it being very dark we were in the utmost danger of being dash'd to pieces. But at length a very dangerous and disagreeable passage in safety. We arrived at the foot of the mountain where we encamped. We had not been long lay down before it began to rain and continued raining the greater part of the night.

Saturday the 18th Was a close foggy drippy morning, however, we started and in a little time arrived at the Valley Station.\* We then made an halt, hoping the weather would break; here we *In Powell's Valley, Lee Co., near front side of Jonesville. - N.B. "Graben Creek" -* also refreshed ourselves and horses, but seeing no likelihood of the weather breaking we again set forward in order to overtake the company before. We had not been long set out before it set in to raining very hard which continued the greater part of the day. Never-theless we push'd on and over-took the company about an hour by sun at night. But riding thro the rain again threw me into a fever with which I was very sick all night.

Sunday the 19th was still cloudy and raw, I was also still very unwell, after one of the most disagreeable nights lodging that I ever had in my life, for the ground being wet the wind all night blowing exceeding hard & either rain or snow Frequently beating in upon us was the cause of my being siezed with a shivering ague which continued till the middle of the day, I then laid down on the ground and cover'd myself thick with clothes (the company having stopped to feed their horses) But a severe fever coming on caused me to throw off the clothes. But the fever still rising soon rendered it Difficult for me iether to Go or stand upon my



feet.

The time was now come when I was to see trouble, for being taken so violent I had little expectation of ever surviving it, even were I at home where I might lie at ease on my bed with proper attendance. But here I was in a wild, uninhabited part of the world having near 150 Miles to travel, without any proper nourishment under an absolute necessity of travelling and without so much as an acquaintance except my brother & 2 or 3 others (whom I but barely knew by sight) from whom I could reasonably expect anything of consequence in my situation. Under these circumstances I was at an entire loss what to do whether it would be best either to go back or forward, my brother's advice was that I should return to the Valley with Manuel and stay there till an alteration either for the better or worse. Which notwithstanding the distressing thought of being in a distant country from Home among a people of bad character and entirely destitute of Friend or acquaintance, I agreed to & was preparing to return when I was persuaded by several of the company to try to go forward they promising me their friendly assistance on the way. On these conditions I again determined to go forward as far as I could and one of the company having sent me his beast which went very well, we again set forward, with a determination if possible to reach Parker's Spring, it being 12 Miles but of all the rides that I ever had, this was the worst. I seem'd to be in a kind of Insensibility & Blindness By which means the way seemed to be Exceeding long & tedious, but at length we arrived at the place appointed and took up camp.

Monday the 20th Soon after we left our encampment we came in sight of Cumberland Gap and about an hour after pass'd through the same. This is a very noted place on account of the great number of people who have here unfortunately fallen a prey to savage cruelty and barbarity. The Mountain in the Gap is neith-



er very steep nor high, but the almost inaccessible cliffs on either side the road render it a place peculiar for doing mischief.

However we passed it without molestation or seeing any sign of Indians Except one <sup>moccasin</sup> ~~Mockerson~~ track. We had not pass'd the Gap far before I was again taken with an Exceeding hard ague which on its going off was succeeded by as hard a fever nevertheless I was oblig'd to travel & with extreme weakness & fatigue reached the appointed encampment about 6 Miles beyond Cumberland Ford A

Tuesday the 25th we rode thro a barren & Exceeding badly water'd Country, about 10 oclock my ague again came on & it was with great difficulty that I sat upon my beast But I still was enabled to keep on with the company tho many times thinking I should not be able to proceed. This day we push'd hard, travell'd late and took up camp near ~~R~~accoon Spring.

Wednesday the 22d The weather having changed from fine, fair & warm to cloudy rainy & raw render'd it disagreeable traveling and my ague at the usual time of day coming on weakened me very fast, But I still made out to travel. We took up in the evening on Rock Castle [River] [Probably at the foot of Wild Cat mountain.]

Thursday the 23d We fix'd off, traveled hard and in the Evening after a fatiguing Journey accompanied with distress & disappointment we arrived at English's Station the first in the Kentucky Settlement

Friday the 24th. After getting breakfast at English's

We started for Brother Georges\* but before we arrived there I was siezed with my ague again we then called at Capt. Kincaid's where

[George Small Smith, half-brother of the author by his second wife.]  
we tarried till toward the evening, we then set forward again & arriv'd at Bro Georges about sunset or a little after. We had the satisfaction of finding him & all his family in health & enjoying the happiness of being in a safe part of the country & having Plenty of what is necessary for the support of nature.

\* In Jessamine Co., near present Nicholasville. →



From this time till Friday the 21st of November I was confin'd almost entirely to the house & chiefly to the bed having an ague every day and seldom if ever clear of a fever. I During this time took 2 Vomits, one of Tartar, the other of Indian Phisick, neither of which Worked me properly I also took a large quantity of other Drugs & Medicines None of which had the effect of removing my ague. I was confident it was a foul stomach that was the cause of all my Disorders & did not expect to be perfectly well till I could get it clens'd In consequence of which I Desired Bro George to get me a large Dose of Tartar. he accordingly got me 5 grains which I immediately took and which work'd me tolerably well. This Phisick I think by the blessing of God was the means of carrying off the ague and in a great measure of dispeling my fevers Nevertheless as I had been sick so long I had gotten so weak that I was still scarcely able to stir out of the house.

Saturday the 22d November I continued at my brother's all day and don't know that I felt any of the ague, but still continued feverish.

Sunday the 23d Bro George having a meeting 3 or 4 Miles from my Brother's I concluded to go with him which I accordingly did & think I felt better than I had done since I was taken sick. Monday the 24th I continued at my Brothers all the day & still seem'd to mend.

Tuesday the 25th I rode with Sister Francis to one of the neighbors & returned again in the afternoon considerably recruited Tho still exceeding weak.

Wednesday the 26th Bro George & myself set off for Mr Curd's about 16 miles from my brothers & although I expected the ride would fatigue me very much, when we arriv'd there in the evening I found myself nearly as well as when I set off. In this Ride I had the only opportunity of seeing the Country that I have



had since I arrived in it. The Richest Land as to the Soil is nearly as I expected to find, tho not altogether so rich My expectation was to find richer Land than I ever saw but was disappointed in my own judgment, Again I expected to find a level country, but in this I was also mistaken, the country I think being rather Hillier than in Powhatan, besides a vast number of sink holes many of which contain an acre of ground and the sides being so steep as to render it untillable. I also found myself wrong in regard to the Quality of the Sand in General, there being much more poor land that I expected to have found & But a small proportion of what is call'd the First rate. Bro George walked over to Mr Ben Bradshaws But I being too weak to walk, tarried at Mr Curd's Who is the Best Fix'd With necessaries of any person I have seen in Kentucky.

Thursday the 27th We returned to Bro Stokes as the day was cloudy and raw & at times rained a Little, But we sustained no damage

Friday the 28th was close cloudy & snowy Besides a good Deal which had fallen in the night which prevented my turning out.

Saturday the 29th was a fine fair & warm day which soon melted off the snow We then fix'd up and started for the Manakin town, but the coldness of the season, the length & dangerousness of the way & particularly the Exceeding Weak state of Health that I was in for executing such a journey with the hardships to which I must unavoidably be exposed, rendered the thoughts of it somewhat disagreeable but the great desire & fervent Longings that I had to once more see my native country enabled me to surmount all difficulties and we accordingly set off and took up at Capt. Ow/sleys about 8 Miles from Bro Georges

Here we got our horses all shoe'd Besides providing ourselves with some necessaries Determining to start the next day for the Crab Orchard X



Sunday the 30th We were somewhat surprised when we arose in the morning to find it snowing very fast, the evening before having been very warm fair & Pleasant: it continued snowing till about 12 or 1 o'clock by which time it was an ankle deep or more Which prevented our going to the Crab Orchard. it ceased snowing about 1 oclock but continued cloudy & raw all the remainder of the day

Monday the first of December after having fix'd up our Luggage & taken breakfast we started from Capt Ownsley's But being detained longer than we Expected made it near 12 'oclock before we arrived at the Crab Orchard, when we Arriv'd we were informed, the Company had been gone from there about an hour. We were then obliged to push hard to overtake them, but being much plagued with our packs & being also Obliged to call at Englishes prevented our overtaking them till they had encamped. I was enabled this day to ride thro' the Snow & Frequently oblig'd to Get down to alter our pack. Without feeling any perceivable damage we travell'd about 22 Miles and took up with the rest of the Company on Scaggs Creek - *Scaggs*

Tuesday the 2d We left our encampment just as it was well Light & travell'd pretty fast, about 12 oclock it clouded up and began to rain and continued to rain all day. We travell'd till near dark & then took up on Raccoon Creek But riding thro the rain with the fatigue of travelling about 30 Miles thew me into a smart fever. Bro George also having took a great cold was also likewise very unwell. Assoon as we arrived at the encamping ground we immediately turned our horses loose into the cane, thinking before we lay down to confine them, but we were both so unwell that we scarcely able to move from Camp so that they remained loose all night, After a very wet night & bad lodging we were blessed with the light of ~~day~~

Wednesday the 3d, But to our no small Disappointment our



horses were not to be found. Bro Geo made what search he could till toward 8 or 9 oclock without success & then offer'd a reward of 10 Dollars to any person that would bring them, but in Vain, for after Searching 'till sometime in the afternoon, we were under the disagreeable necessity of returning to Kentucky This was truly a wretched shift, but never-theless it was the best we could make & notwithstanding our case was bad Yet we had great reason to be thankful that it was no worse For 1st we had one horse left which I had luckily ty'd up over night IId a company of our Old Acquaintances coming by mere accident to our Camp about 10 at night who (happy for us) were detained in the morning as well as we And When we were driven to the necessity of returning assisted us along on our way back & IIdly when we arriv'd at Kentucky we had the good fortune to find our horses who had got there about 2 hours before us so that we came off much better than we could reasonably have expected.

Thursday the 4th The weather was still cloudy cold and raw but we pursued our Journey But I think I suffer'd the most cold that I almost ever did in one day in my life, for I was so weak that I was unable to Walk Which was the Only Expedient we could have recourse to to warm ourselves when cold—having made it rather late in starting from our encampment Which was on L. Rock castle) we did not arrive at Kentucky till about 9 o'clock at night.

Friday the 5th was cold and blustering which brought on a heavy shower of snow which was Soon over and then it cleared away. Bro George & myself having taken a walk down to the river to wash ourselves, saw the greatest curiosity I ever saw in Kentucky Which is as follows: On the bank lie several large Rocks the Gritt of which as well as I recollect is much like grind-stone gritt, within these rocks there are innumerable appearances of some kind of shells, which are turned into solid stone the greater part of which



a good deal resemble Buck's Horns What ever was the cause of this strange Phenomenon of nature I am at a loss to Determine, nevertheless I must think that these stone were once perfect shells Otherwise I can form no idea How they should come there But of this enough.

Having parted with our provisions both for ourselves and horses we were oblig'd to provide more having determin'd to start with the Company that were coming from Crab Orchard We accordingly got enough to carry us thro' the Wilderness and with it once more started for home But the Company having got the start of us thro our being unavoidably detain'd in providing our provisions we were again oblig'd to travel by ourselves till late in the night when we at last overtook them at their encampment near the mouth of Scraggs Creek.

Saturday the 6th We started pretty early, travell'd slowly & encamped in the evening on Frazers Creek, We were in number about 35 men, and there being a good deal of danger of indians caused us to be much on our guard Wherefore it was thought proper to place out 4 Centinels one on each Quarter of the encampment which after a List was obtained for the purpose were accordingly ordered to their several Posts

Sunday the 7th We fix'd up and started from our Encampment as soon as it was well Light. Soon after our Setting out we were Struck with Horror at the sight of the fresh grave of the unfortunate Fielding Who fallen a prey to the savage barbarity of A Merciless, Cruel & Bloodthirsty, Enemy who after it was his fatal misfortune to have his thigh-bone shatter'd to pieces was unhumanely butcher'd & bruised & at length Scalped to complete the horror of that mournful scene. Soon after we had passed this monument of Cruelty our Front were alarm'd at the fresh sign of horses that had come up to the road on an high hill which was doubtless a party of



Madame Celine?



savages who had come hither to learn if there had any Company Just pass'd. Nevertheless, we pursued our Journey without any interruption. We travell'd on till night when we came to the place where poor Fielding & his companyons receiv'd their mortal wounds, the Company who Survived the Shocking Massacre Had built for their Preservation a kind of Fort into which they repair'd but unhappily their cautious proceedings came too late for their unfortunate friends.

We proceeded a few miles farther & took up camp.

Monday the 8th, having determin'd if Possible this day to get into Powell's Valley we started about 2 hours before day, When the day light came on the front were again alarm'd by a mockerson track which appear'd not to have been gone an hour: on seeing this repeated sign of Indians a Council was held wherein was decreed that the gun men should divide some in front and some in the rear in case the rear should be attacked in this position we march'd till we pass'd Cumberland River. When we arriv'd at the foot of Cumb'd Mountain we were again halted & the whole of the Guns (being about 12 or 15 in number excepting Pistols) were put in front, thus we march'd uninterrupted thro, the Gap. But 2 men, one of whom had a founder'd & the other a tir'd horse being Quite out of sight of the rest of the Company behind, when they had a Little Pass'd the top of the mountain one of them chancing to cast his Eye some distance to the Left hand was suddenly startl'd by the sight of 6 Indians running with their guns in their hands as tho they meant to head the body of the Company by taking advantage of a Crooked part of the road, they immediately set up a continued *cry*. for assistance which being heard & answered by those before made the very mountain seem to be alive with People. But when the Company collected again on the top of the mountain, no Indian was to be seen. A council was then again held when Col. Martin gave it as his opin-



ion that we should certainly be attacked Some time in the night by those Indians Whereupon, the guns were again divided Some in front & some in the rear, we then march'd on in close & good order in a Single Indian File, we marched thus about 5 miles & then Stop'd fed our horses & Determined to travel the greater part of the night Assoon as our horses were done eating we set forward again, it being at this time about 2 Hours in the night. after travelling about 6 Miles farther we came to the Encampment of a company bound for Kentucky with whom we encamped all night.

Tuesday the 9th Hoping we were now out of danger, several of the company talked not of starting Till toward 8 or 9 o'clock But my brother & me with a few others push'd on with an intention to get to the Valley Station, we travell'd on till towards the middle of the Day, when all Except my Brother & me Stop'd to let their horses eat cane. We push'd along thinking to go somewhat farther and wait for them while our horses should feed, but seeing no convenient place we kept on when as our pack horses were going along before & coming to the brow of an hill suddenly started back & came meeting of us, my Bro. immediately Dismounted & bore off to the Left hand & I bore off to the Right. We could make no discoveries of anything But this so alarmed us, that we were not at ease all the day after, we saw also several mockerson tracks Along the Road which still tended to increase our fears. But safely and undisturbed we arriv'd at the Valley Station about 10 oclock at night.

Wednesday the 10th Being now got Quite beyond Danger we did not start so soon as usual, so that all our Company came up again and we all set off together about 11 o'clock from the Valley Station & took up camp at night on French River.

Thursday the 11th We started pretty early and arriv'd at the Block house about 1 o'clock so that we have been but 6 days since we started from English's— We fed our horses at the Block



house then rode on to Campbells, - *(on N. part of Washington Ct.)*

Friday the 12th we fix'd and started about an hour before day, but the morning being wet & rainy we went about 6 Miles & took up again till it ceased raining & then push'd on to----- 3 or 4 miles this side Washington Courthouse— *(Abingdon)*

Saturday the 13th, we started about break of day, travell'd pretty hard & Encamped in the woods near the head of Helstein. \*

\* *In Wythe Co or perhaps W. of the line in Smyth.*

Sunday the 14th we started early & took up Camp in the woods opposite the Peak mountains. \*

\* *Peak Knob, in Montgomery Co. no Palisades - near Drafers Valley -*

Monday the 15th we set out some time before day, about 9 o'clock cross'd N. River & about 5 in the afternoon cross'd the Stupendous Allegenia Ridge & took up Camp in the Woods near the Big Spring. - *Allegheny Spr. E of Chumucking*

Tuesday the 16th we started an hour or 2 before day, travell'd fast and took up at night at Churches about 40 miles from our encampment. \*

\* *W. of Buford's Gap in the Blue Ridge*

Wednesday the 17th the morning being (wet) & raining we did not start until after breakfast. However we reached Mr J. Chastain's a little after Sunset. \*

\* *In Bedford Co, not far from Liberty, near Bedford City.*

Thursday the 18th was a very bad snowy Day, nevertheless we rode from Mr Chastain's to Mr Stovalls\* it being near 40 Miles.

\* *In Appomattox.*

Friday the 19th We started from Mr Stovall's after Breakfast & arrived at R. Moseley's about daylight come \*

\* *W part of Cumberland*

Satt. the 20th After getting started from R. Moseley's & took up at Niel Thompson's in Cumberland. \*

\* *A town at which Mr Smith frequently stopped*

Sunday the 21st About Day light down, arriv'd safe at home having been mercifully preserved and kept thro' innumerable hardships, dangers & difficulties for which may the Power that kept me have unremitted Praise.

J. Smith,  
Powhatan Virginia,  
April 1786.



*Out by the Kanawha River  
1. Back by the Wilderness Road*

Journal &c.

*Of the motives of my setting out.*

A Variety of Considerations have for some time led me to think that the peace and tranquillity of my native Country stood on a very precarious footing. The pride & profaneness that is everywhere discoverable among all ranks of People, The great decay of true & vital Religion among all orders of professors, The disordered state of Public affairs, The fatal tendency of that policy which tolerates slavery and oppression in a free Republican Government and above all a full conviction of the truth of that remarkable saying, "The measure you mete, shall be measured to you again"—are considerations that have made me cry out with the Prophet "Oh that I had in the Wilderness a lodging place that I might rest in the day of trouble, when the Lord cometh up to invade the people with his troops." I therefore determined, if God spared my life, to visit the western Country If haply I might find a place answerable to my wishes, I therefore left home on Sunday the 4th. day of October (4) 1795 Proceeded to Peter Sublett's & preached my farewell discourse from 2d. Corinthians 13&11 to a number of attentive hearers ready to depart on the morrow on my intended journey.

*[Peter Sublett, husband of his sister Martha. - 3d. lived in Powhatan Co.]*

Monday 5th. After taking leave of my near & dear connexions myself & Thos. Porter, set out about 9 o'clock but having occasion to call at several places it was sunset when we reached Thompson's tavern, here we stopp'd fed our horses and again set forward, day light now forsook us. The lowering clouds portended a storm & the winds already roared at a distance. The lightning blazed around us and the thunder rolled over our heads. The rain came on with impetuosity & the rushing wind passed by with its frightful roar. In consequence of the uncommon darkness of the night we got bewildered & took a wrong road, we knew nothing of our mistake till we heard the sound of the water tumbling over a Mill dam on Appomattox River.

*\* Perhaps "Gravy Pond Mills"*



We very fortunately however, got back into the Right Road and wet & weary enough reached Wm Makey's about 11 o'clock in the night.

Tuesday the 6th We left Bro Makey's about 12 o'clock (5)

& reached Philip Gatches\* about 3.

\* In Buckingham?

Wednesday the 7th Thos. Porter, Philip Rowzee, Samuel Mansfield & myself started from Bro. Gatches about 10 & travelled thro a barren & broken country, A few solitary farms with a small cornfield & cabin filled with tobacco were the objects that presented themselves to our view. On the head of Appomattox River the scene was agreeably changed, instead of fields over run with weeds, we find large & beautiful farms well cultivated & beautiful fields of wheat. We took up in the evening at Hunter's Tavern.\*

\* Probably in what is now Appomattox Co, and near Appomattox Ctr.

Thursday the 8th We set out early, travelled slowly, took

a wrong road, passed Campbell's Court House\* about 12 o'clock & 133 miles W. of Richmond

reached Mr. Chastain's about 9 at night.\*

In Bedford Co, not far from Liberty

Friday the 9th, In order to give our horses a little rest

we concluded to continue this day at Mr. Chastain's A Son of Mr.

Chastain's offer'd to conduct us to the top of a mountain called

the Apple Orchard.\* This proposal we gladly accepted. We set off

\* ~~The mountain is about 7 miles from the Peaks of Otter~~ About seven miles from the Peaks of Otter

from Mr. Chastain's about 8 o'clock & rode to the foot of the moun-

tains where we arrived about 10. We now left our horses, and began

to climb the mountain. At about 12 we reached a kind of level, be-

ing now, as our pilots informed us about half way to the top, here

one of our company got discouraged & returned. The rest of us pur-

sued our intention of gaining the top, which we were informed was

yet 4 miles distant. But not discouraged at the distance or diffi-

culties & exertions we met with, we honestly exerted ourselves &

reached the top of this most beautiful mountain about 2 o'clock,

there is about 2 acres of level ground on the top without a tree,

bush or shrub so that we had a full & extensive view of the world

beneath us. Here language is too weak to convey a proper Idea of

At the  
peak of the  
mountain  
the view  
is  
of a  
mountain



the beauty of the scene. We find ourselves on the top of one of the highest mountains in Virginia if not in North America. When we get near the top the trees are low & shrubby, having much the appearance of an old apple orchard whose limbs have been overloaded with fruit, indeed I suppose these trees are frequently more loaded with ice than the best of orchards are with apples, but as was observed before the summit is quite naked of trees & opens an unbounded prospect to the enraptured Beholder. You cast your eyes eastwardly, a beautiful level country adorn'd with farms & plantations, presents itself to view, but if you look Southwardly, Westwardly or northerly "Hills peep o'er Hills & mountains on mountains rise," some of these appear close at hand & seem to invite you across the deep winding valleys to take a view of their Rocky Summits, while others at an immense distance raise their high heads above the floating clouds. Interspersed among the valleys, a number of beautiful meadows discover themselves to view.

After indulging ourselves with enchanting prospect about half an hour, we set off down, in doing which we passed one of the head springs of otter river.

We got back to Mr Chastains a little after sunset."

Saturday the 10th. We left Mr Chastains about 11 o'clock after experiencing the most unbounded generosity & respect. We travelled slowly & reached Buford's tavern<sup>\*</sup> in the Evening where we  
<sup>\* In the N.W. part of Bedford County, at the foot of the Blue Ridge</sup>  
 had appointed to meet some other company.

Sunday 11th. We were this morning joined by Wm & Jas Bryant, Mrs Bryant & Mrs Blaky. Started from Buford's about 8 & passt the Blue Ridge about 10 o'clock. In consequence of information we received respecting the badness of the Wilderness road<sup>\*</sup> We  
<sup>\* The first journey was by the Wilderness Road.</sup>  
 here turned our course & made for the Kauhaway. We passed Fincastle about 3 in the afternoon which is the county town of Botetourt. It is a neat little Town, Very agreeably situated in a fertile country



and in full view of the Blue Ridge Peaks of Otter & certain high Mountains in the west. Here we find a surprizing change in the agricultural system to that used on the Eastern side of the mountains. Here are no fields of Tobo. Cultivated by drovers of unhappy slaves But instead thereof, the most beautiful meadows with their purling streams watering the green & delightful borders. Here are barns stored with plenty & hay in abundance in the meadows & nature seems to smile on the industrious and frugal Husbandman.

We took up in the evening at A Caldwell's in a huge cluster of mountains. *\* Below Sunset \* Probably at the base of the North Mountains*

Monday the 12th. We have done little else to-day but climb and descend mountains. Immediately after leaving our lodging we began to ascend what is called the Craig's creek Mountain, *\* Probably North Mountains* about 8 o'clock we reached its summit. Here we found ourselves so high that we could see the clouds hovering in the valleys beneath us and mountains innumerable entirely surrounding us. Precisely at 12 o'clock we began to climb the "Pott's creek mountain" Two hours & 10 minutes of laborious travel brought us to the top about an hour and a half more we spent in going down it, it is amazing steep & Rocky especially in going down. But we are not yet done with this rugged way We now began to ascend the "Sweet springs mountains" reached the Summit about 5 and arrived at the foot about Sunset which brought us to the Sweet Springs where we took up. This has been a most tiresome & fatiguing days travel tho' we have gotten only 21 miles. The Scenes that presented themselves to our view were high mountains, fearful preccippices, enormous rocks, deep winding valleys, high waterfalls & dreary lonely & desert country surrounded us on every side. It was a most agreeable sensation therefore which we experienced When we reached the Sweet Springs *\* In Monroe Co. 204 miles from Richmond, the last Va. writing place. - v. Virginia Gazette* where we met with good accommodations.

Of several  
numerical  
notes.

Tuesday 13th. As soon as it was well light I took a walk



to the fountain which claims the preeminence of all the Waters of Virginia. It rises out of a beautiful valley at the foot of the Sweet Spring mountain and it is from 30 to 40 feet in diameter. Near one edge of it is a box about 12 inches square & 2 feet high with a spout venting a stream of water about the size of a man's arm, from this spout the water is taken which the people drink. About the Center of the Spring is a house containing two apartments with a Bath in each. These Baths are 8 or 10 feet square and the water in each is 3 or 4 feet deep into which they descend by steps the Water being about blood warm renders bathing a most agreeable as well as profitable exercise. These Waters are found to contain a very considerable quantity of air in consequence of Which thousands of bubbles perpetually rise. The taste of the Water is not easily described. Its particles however, appear to be a mixture of Different Minerals. It appears strongly impregnated with Vitriol while a Small trace of sulphur is also easily discoverable. This Spring is said by Jefferson to be one of the Head Waters of James River. I think it sends forth much the greatest quantity of Water of any fountain I ever saw Part of Which conveyed by a Canal works a saw mill at about 100 yds. distance from the Springs and a grist mill a little farther down.

The Red Springs about a mile down the same Stream next presented themselves to view This fountain with a bold stream that dyes the Earth and Stones of a red or rusty cast rushes out of a steep bank and quickly mingles its waters with those of the Sweet Springs to which (if we may be allowed to Judge from the taste) it seems nearly related. To a contemplative & Philosophic mind this country opens a wide & extensive field While it affords at the same time a most striking display of the Wisdom Power & Goodness of the great Universal Architect. In one place we hear of Springs the Waters of Which are hot enough to boil an egg while others in a few feet of the same place produce water



as cool as common water! Again we hear of others tho' quite cold will take fire by the flame of a candle or the flash of Gunpowder and burn for days together others issue forth strongly impregnated with Sulphur, while not a few sent forth in their brackish streams immense quantities of common salt. These different Properties are supposed to be produced by different Minerals thro' which these Waters pass. But how weak & perhaps erroneous are the ideas we form of these things. What strange cause can produce such a surprising heat in the hot Springs or the inflammable matter in the burning springs? All I can say is to acknowledge with one of old, that "These things are too wonderful for me."

After satisfying our curiosity in viewing these several Springs, We ascended the Alleghenia Mountain the Summit of which we gained about 12 o'clock Here we took leave of the Waters of James River and with it all others that run eastwardly We descended a branch of Green Briar River called Howard's Creek Here we saw what are called the Sulphur Springs<sup>\*</sup> An appellation which they have<sup>\* the famous white Sulphur Springs</sup> received from their having a strong smell and taste of Sulphur At these several Springs baths are erected and houses built for the accommodation of the sick which flock to them from all parts of the United States & even from Europe; & if we are not wrongly informed, some very remarkable cures have been effected by the Virtue of the Waters The Country down Howard's Creek is poor & Broken<sup>\*</sup> Here were<sup>\* this day journey made in Alleghany Co.</sup> more Acorns than I ever Saw in any one place before But we saw great Numbers of Pigeons flocking thither which I suppose soon devoured them. We went down the Creek to its mouth just below which we crossed Green Briar River and reached Lewisburg<sup>\*</sup> about Dark.

<sup>\* In Greenbrier Co. 221 miles W. of Richmond</sup>

Wednesday 14th, We spent some time in town viewing its varities & curiosities. It consists of about 20 families Who are tradesmen, Mechanics etc. The situation of the place is far from agreeable being built on very broken ground without any River to



wash its borders or view of high mountains at a great distance to give it a prospect. The District Court is sometimes held at this place.

We pursued our Journey thro some very Fertile Lands & arriv'd in the Evening at Gillylands in the Edge of the Wilderness. Here we <sup>Probably in Nicholas Co.</sup> overtook our old friends Hatcher & Sublett with their Families with whom we encamped.

Thursday 15th Immediately after our setting out a Dark Cloud shewed its broad front over the top of a neighboring mountain The rushing wind, attended with heavy rain roared among the trees & bellowed in the mountains. We sheltered ourselves under some large trees till the fury of the storm was over we then put forward, but the wind continued very boisterous the rest of the day and we were in much danger from the falling trees But the Lord preserved us.

Our Journey today has lain thro a Dreary, lonely, uninhabited Country & very badly water'd. We lodged or encamped in the Woods near the foot of Gawley mountain. Here we thought it prudent to keep centry for fear of Indians.

Friday 16th We left our encampment about an hour before day. At sunrise we reached the top of Gawley Mountain Which is pretty high, steep, rocky & slippery But the greatest difficulty is in descending it, great caution and skill are necessary in order to carry down a waggon safe, at the foot of the mountain we met a young man from the boat-yard who informed us that his brother who had procured a boat was desirous of taking in some single horsemen in order to complete his load. On receiving this Agreeable intelligence, we dispatched two young men Express to the Boat Yard to stop the boat till we should arrive We crossed the Rocky ford of Gauly River about 10'oclock, rode down it about a mile with the mountain projecting over our heads on the one hand and the River on the



other tumbling over the rocks in a small flat on the River I saw, a number of the most beautiful walnut trees I ever saw One of which I measured with a thread about 21 feet in circumference with a body about 40 feet long without a single

We arrived at the Boat Yard, about half an hour by sun But met  
*\* On the first Kanawha below the Falls.*  
 with very indifferent accommodations.

Satt. the 19th We procured for our voyage 5 Bushels of very indifferent meat it was however, the best, yea, all that we could get for our Company which consists of 24 persons. With this scanty stock of Provisions we embarked on board our boat about 3 o'clock But the wind being against us, we got only 4 miles where we took up for the night.

Sunday the 18th The whole of our Company 24 in number & 14 horses embarked on board our boat Which is 28 feet long only. We were consequently heavy loaded and amazingly pester'd for want of room. The winds were yet contrary and pretty high withal which made us sail very slowly. Finding we could easily get ahead of the boat, myself and a few others after procuring a pilot set out by land with an intention to find out and take a view of Those wonders of Nature ———

 The Burning Springs.

\* The famous Burning Springs is Kanawha Co., a few miles above Charleston — natural gas — v. vulgar Sassafras.

Having reached a very rich and fertile piece of woods on the bank of the Kanaway Our pilot informed us we were near the springs We then set out in search of them we had been but a few minutes engaged in this search before an uncommon rumbling noise called my attention to a particular spot I made to the place and to my very great amazement found a round puddle of muddy water of about 6 feet in diameter boiling and rumbling after a strange and surprising manner The Spring (as it is called) altho' in this strange agitation had no vent or stream issuing from it yet boiled with more violence than any spring or pot I ever saw. We flashed a little



gunpowder over it and it instantly took fire and flam'd like burning spirits. The smell of the fire was like that of burning pit coal and the flame I observed did not produce any smoak. We had therefore a very good opportunity of warming ourselves the weather being pretty cold. About 50 Yds from the above is another spring of the same kind. This we found burning and the fire seemed to proceed out of the ground. Our pilot informed us that this was the larger spring of the two and supposed it had been burning for several days at least.

It is observable that the water in these Springs is remarkably cold but after being set on fire the water gets warm and at length disappears. The fire is easily extinguished by smothering it.

After we had sufficiently viewed this surprising phenomenon we pursued our course to the mouth of the Elk where we again embarked & proceeded down the River throth Elk shoals and then took up for the night. \* Below the present location of Charleston.

Monday the 19th We proceeded down the River, sailed all night, slept none, & arriv'd about break of day at Point Pleasant.

Of Point Pleasant Tuesday 20th When it got sufficiently light we took a view of the place the beautiful situation of which is remarked by travellers. The Monongalia & Alleghania Rivers form a Junction at Ft. Pitts and from thence downward is called the Ohio. The course of this River is from Northeast to Southwest generally; but coming near the point it turns Northward and receives the Kanhaway, New River & Green Brier unite their Currants about 200 miles from the Ohio and from their union downward is called the Kanawa. It shapes its general Course nearly west, till coming near the point it turns northward and rolls its beautiful & gentle current into the still more beautiful Ohio. In this beautiful point the land lies high, is amazing rich & uncommonly level. The place seems to be formed by nature for a town and probably were we acquainted with the history



of America as well as we are with that of some other countries we might mention when the time was that a town really stood on this very point. But alas, nothing now remains of its ancient works but a few monuments of the dead. A New Town is now laid off, the Streets are straight & the lots enclosed But the buildings are (as yet) but very indifferent But its delightful situation, its convenience for trade thro the two noble rivers which wash its borders, its being surrounded by a rich and fertile country are objects which point out its future consequence & splendor. A little back of the Town & between the two Rivers rises a mountain which not only commands an extensive view of the distant country the Rivers & the point but will probably also at a future day be the strength & safety of the town. Here was a bloody battle fought between the Indians & Whites in 1774

At the French  
town, Galliapolis

About 9 oclock we left this delightful situation & proceeded down the Ohio. About an hour's sail brought us along side of the French Town of Galliapolis. Here we also landed in order to procure some bread for hitherto we had been unable to furnish any for our voyage. The Town contains as we were informed about 100 families who appear to live in a very social, agreeable & friendly manner being a frugal and industrious people.

While we were here a civil & well-bred Frenchman obligingly entertained us with a number of curiosities. He first kindled a fire of a small clear flame, which by means of a foot bellows he increased or diminished at his pleasure. He then took a piece of Glass about the shape & size of a pipe-stem (of which he had a great number of pieces) he held this glass in the flame till it began to melt then applied it to his mouth & blew it up like a bladder, this he gave a fillip with his finder and it burst with an explosion like the report of a pistol Another glass he blew up in the same manner and thro a tube as fine as a hair, filled it



land near "the Millpond"  
in Virginia.

3 George R. Smith moved to Kentucky (Franklin Co.)  
m. 1. 1804-5. - d 1878.

m. 1. Judith Guerrant,

— son... Gen. George R. Smith of Sedalia Mo.  
b. 1804.

m. 2. Miss Coombs.

m. 3. - Miss Hayden —

→ ~~son~~ son. Mr. Forsey.

— had son Mr. Forsey who was his  
son in Miss Sulett, lived in  
Indianapolis, 1830.



with water running upward in a strange manner and filling the globe at the top, other pieces he wired as fine as a hair, indeed it appeared as if he had taught this brittle substance so far to obey him that it took any form he pleased. He shewed us a number of thermometers Barometers Spirit Proofs etc all of his own make. The virtue of the Spirit Proof I tried on different kinds of spirit & found it to answer the purpose for which it was intended by shewing the real strength of the Liquor. He terminated these shows by exhibiting a chemical composition which had the peculiar quality of setting wood on fire. The polite and agreeable manner in which he entertained us for about half an hour Was not the smallest gratification to me, for while it marked the general character of his nation, it placed his own in a very conspicuous point of view.

We left Galliapolis about 2 oclock, pursued our course down the River & were near the mouth of Sandy river by sunrise the next morning 55 miles from the French town, Sandy river is the boundary line between Virginia & Kentucky.

Wednesday the 21st. The weather since we embarked has been fair & pleasant which makes greatly in our favor.

Our horses however get very restless and their legs swell considerably but we comfort ourselves with a hope that we shall reach limestone tomorrow.

Thursday 22d About 2 oclock in the afternoon we reached the settlement at Kennady's bottom & being tired of our situation determined here to land. We therefore disembarked & pursued our Journey down the Ohio by land about 7 miles and took up in the evening at a Mr Lawson's. We were in hopes to have got some refreshments here but to our great mortification could get neither bread, meat, milk or butter, we however got some Irish potatoes and parched corn and with this we made our first meal in Kentucky.

Of our  
arrival  
in  
Kentucky



We then composed ourselves to rest and enjoyed a refreshing night's sleep on the hard floor

Friday the 23d We left the Ohio & turned our faces toward Lexington, called & ate a hearty breakfast at A—Vears, crossed the North fork of Licking about 12 & came into a country thickly inhabited & vastly rich. We took up in the evening at Rows on Johnston's fork

Satt. 24th Soon after our setting out, we pass'd over a ground render'd memorable by reason of a battle fought here in 1782, in Which Col Todd, commander of the Kentuckians and about 60 of his brave companions in arms fell victims to a superior savage force. After passing this Aceldama or field of Blood we soon reached the Blue Licks, The country around which remains a monument of barrenness The amazing resort of Buffalo to the Licks in former times is supposed to be the cause of this barrenness As you approach the Licks at a distance of 4 or 5 miles from it you begin to perceive the change. The Earth seems to be worn away. The roots of the trees lie naked and bare The rocks forsaken of the earth that once covered them lie naked on the neighboring hills and wads of amazing size in all directions, unite at the Licks as their common centre. Here immense herds of Buffalo used formerly to meet and with their fighting, scraping etc, have worn away the ground to what it is at present.

Of the  
Blue Licks  
and its  
curiosities.

The Salt spring at this place, rises in a flat ground near the River Licking & affords a great deal of water. The water is brackish with a touch of sulphur and has a Blueish appearance which is the reason of its being called the Blue Licks.

Here they make considerable quantities of salt. It is found that the Saltest water is procured by sinking wells a few feet deep & getting the water from thence

In sinking a well of this kind here some little time past The



bones & teeth of an animal of enormous size were found Some of these bones and teeth I saw & handled. It was something in shape of a boars tusk, was 4 or 5 fett long & when first found weighed about 50 Pounds. We left the Lick & pursued our journey to Lexington following one of the old Buffalo roads which I suppose was generally 200 feet wide, after we got from the Licks 5 or 6 miles, the lands became good and surprisingly fertile.

We Reached Col Rogers at Bryants Old Station where we lodged

Sunday 25th We entered & passed thro Lexington, the boast & pride of the Kentuckians. It is an agreeable town Pleasantly situated in a thriving condition & a place of considerable trade.

In the afternoon I arrived at my brother's & had the satisfaction of finding him & his family in health

Monday 26th was called to attend the funeral of a Mrs Morris who is said to have feared God from her youth. She Dy'd yesterday about 1 o'clock leaving a husband & children to bewail her loss. My bro. requested me to Preach which I did to a considerable number of People who were collected on the occasion.

Friday 30th I went to Mr Jno Watkins in Woodford County attended by my Brother & sister Francis. I was greatly pleased with Mr Watkins Settlement. The situation is beautiful, Land fertile Water good & air healthy. These blessings with a contented mind are an inestimable treasure But alas, where is the man that enjoys all these favors at once & the same time?

Satt 30: We walked to Mr Henry Watkins & saw there several old friends & acquaintences & returned in the evening to Mr Jno Watkins

Sunday 1st of Nov'r I went with Mr Watkins to a Meeting house & heard Mr John Dupuy preach a good discourse After he concluded he requested me to preach. I did so from Rev. 3d etc. The



people heard with seriousness & the deepest attention while I pointed out the danger of apostacy and blessed effects of Perseverence.

After preaching I called and took dinner with Stephen Traben Mr Dupuy & a number of old friends and acquaintances making up our Company. I then proceeded to Edward Traben's and spent the evening.

Monday 2d Here for the first time I see the Kentucky River & the inaccessible cliffs that appear on both sides of it. the bed of the River which I suppose not be less than 300 feet below the tops of these enormous banks appears like a gutter cut to a vast depth by the water during a long course of time from the tops of these banks ( or as they are more usually called, cliffs) the Land goes off level and after getting a little from the River are amazingly rich.

I left Mr Traben's after breakfast, dined at Din'd at Mr Adams & then proceeded to Mr John Mopes Whose kindness to me while travelling to this country once before, still fills my heart with gratitude.

Tuesday 3d I went to Lexington where were a vast number of people collected to see a poor fellow executed Here I met with my brother & accompanied him home.

Wednesday 4th I set out on a Journey to the South Side of Kentucky Forded the River, pass'd thro' part of Miras & Lincoln Counties & reached John Bryant's in the Evening.

Thursday the 5th Mr Bryant rode with me to Capt. Owsley's in Madison County, but instead of that cheerfulness that once characterized this family, I found that grief had erected her standard here. This was owing to the Horrid and criminal conduct of a Mr. Gouge, (a son-in-law of Cap't Owsleys) who a few days before had killed a man & for which atrocious act he is now confined in Frankfort Jail & will probably suffer the punishment which his



crime deserves. The man murdered had discharged an innocent slave which Gouge intended to flog. This was a crime too great for Gouge's boisterous temper to put up with. He therefore discharged a Rifle at the Man, the contents of which passing thro his knee, caused his death 15 days after.

Friday 6th I visited Wm. Bryant, where I wrote several letters to my Family & Friends; expecting to have a ready conveyance by Mr Douglass who intends to Richmond. But how great was my disappointment when I called at Mr Douglas's & found he had started the day before. It would have been a great gratification to me to have contrived a letter to them but must wait another conveyance.

Saturday 7 I returned to Capt Owsley's and preached in the Evening to a small but attentive congregation from Rev 22 & 17.

Sunday 8th. I had appointed to preach at the meeting house on Sugar Creek but was prevented by the rain. In the evening I returned to Mr. John Bryants.

*Of the drought  
in Kentucky.*

Monday 9th The Summer & Fall, hitherto having been uncommonly dry in this country has created an alarming scarcity of water. Stock of all kinds have suffered very much. Horses to my knowledge have not drank a single drop of water for many days together & cattle could only loll out their tongues where they once drank the refreshing stream. The far greater part of the Springs were stopped running and not a few, entirely dry, even the bottoms of the mill ponds were as dry as an hearth, and numbers of people had their water to fetch several miles. A day or two past the whole face of the country was as dry as tinder and considerable rivers had ceas'd to flow in their channels. But this morning the scene is agreeably chang'd.

The springs, creeks & rivers flow in their usual channels, & the thirsty cattle flock thither & quench their thirst. The mills



once more driven by the force of the water prepare grain for the use of man. Surely the people of this Country as well as the Virginians ought to trace the footsteps of an offended Deity. While the heavens has bee brass over this country, floods, storms & tempests have laid waiste whole fields on the Eastern side of the mountain! If the rivers here have been dry, in Virginia they have swelled to an uncommon height, while the mills in both countries have been rendered useless, some for the want of water and others by having too much. Thus it is that "God speaketh once, yea, twice yet man perceiveth it not.

Tuesday 10th. I travelled today in a strange country among a strange people: who earnestly importuned me to come and preach among them before I left the country. It appeared that the Universalists joining with the Deists, had given Christianity a deadly stab hereabouts. But "The Lord hath his way in the Whirlwind, and all things obey his might." I trust He will yet bring good out of this Evil and that the glory of scriptural religion though obscur'd for the present, will shine forth hereafter with redoubled lustre.

Wednesday 11th. After taking breakfast with Mr Bryant, I set out for my brothers. About 12 o'clock I came to the Kentucky River, and found it considerably raised, While the boat was coming across to fetch me, I improved the time in taking a particular view of the stones that everywhere lay about my feet, Limestone in this country is everywhere common, but here are only sand stones in abundance. As good Flint as I ever saw was here to be seen in considerable plenty and Marble itself was not wanting to make up the rich variety. But what is very strange, all these different kinds of stone, were to be seen at the same time in one solid piece of a few pounds weight.

Of a pocket from the  
 Jerry Lander at  
 the mouth of Hickman, and  
 reflects many

The above is a discription of the



pavement you stand upon. But raising your eyes, a scene of a very different kind strikes your astonished mind. On each side of the river, you have a prospect of the cliffs. A Scene tho' wild and romantic yet awfull and majestic. The rock cannot be less than 200 feet in height and in many places nearly perpendicular and sometimes projecting over. Here are large pieces to be seen, which appear just ready to break loose and tumble from their high beds, into the river below & it sometimes actually happens, that they break loose from above and come tumbling to the bottom in a fearful and horrible manner. From the bed of the River, to the highest part of the cliff, the rock seems to have an appearance like that of a River bank where a number of marks appear pointing out to the beholder, how high the water has been in a fresh . This appearance suggests an idea and confirms the history of a universal Flood, the powerful effects of which operating upon the Limestone rock (which being of a dissoluble nature) have made there various marks at the various heights of the water, while returning to the Abyss.

This is only one among a great number of arguments that prove the doctrine of the Deluge.

While traveling to and fro thro' this country, I have observed that the rocks in a number of places contain a perfect impression of Sea Shells, scolloped and carved in a most extraordinary manner. At an Indian grove near Mr Bryants, I saw a number of these appearances of different kinds and shapes; & one instance I saw of a stone which had the appearance of the back-bone of a fish: the joints of which appeared quite plain and distinct. From all this it would appear that this country, though 700 or 800 miles from the Sea, has been deluged with water, and if so, how reasonable it is to suppose, that it was at the time of the Universal flood.



The Cliffs of Kentucky produce little else but Cedar, which shooting their roots among the rocks, grow in great abundance, They are generally from 6 inches to 2 feet, though some however are much larger, I am told and well adapted to building. After getting clear of the cliffs, the soil gets richer as we go from the river, till it exceeds discription.

Thursday 12th. I have now travelled through a considerable part of the State of Kentucky. The fertility of the lands generally, vastly exceed anything I ever saw before. But O Alas! There, as in Virginia, the Slavery of the human race is unfortunately tolerately. Contrary to reason and justice—Contrary to our bill of rights, Contrary to the principles of the American Revolution and Contrary to the dictates of conscience. Legislative, Executive and Judiciary departments connive at so flagrant a violation of Right, while the great body of the people, persist in a practice that must prove their overthrow!

Here the cries of the oppressed are heard, while the mark of the whip strikes the feeling heart with the keenest sensibility. The groans of the captive heave the troubled breast, and the trickling tear moistens the sable cheek, while innocent blood pollutes the ground, and cries to heaven for vengeance!

There are a number of Slave-holders however, though deaf to the exhortation of the Prophet. (Is. 58. 6) yet speak and act toward their slaves with kindness in some degree. Yea, some go so far, as to allow them considerable liberties, but this is not generally the case. What pity it is, that the inhabitants of this country had not considered their true interest, when framing their constitution, and shut out this horrid practice from them. When I reflect on the fertility of Kentucky, it really grieves me to think, that ever the blood of a slave, should stain so rich a soil.

Friday 13th After commending my body and spirit to God,



I fixed and started for the North-west side of the Ohio. I arrived at Lexington about 12, met there with my companion Thos Porter, were detained there till 3, then set out and arrived at Col Collins in the evening, with whom we lodged.

Saturday 14th We left our lodgings about 9 o'clock, after experiencing every mark of generosity and politeness from Col Collins.

About 11, we passed through Georgetown, the county seat of Scott. The Town is pleasantly situated in a very fertile Country, half a mile from Elkhorn, and is composed of two principal streets crossing each other at right angles, which throws the town into the form of a cross. About 3 in the afternoon, we came upon the waters of Eagle Creek. here we got into an uninhabited country. The lands on Eagle Creek being poor and very broken. At sunset we ascended what is called the dry ridge, on which the road goes 27 miles without crossing a drop of water.

This ridge divides the waters that fall into Licking, from those which fall into Eagle Creek. The night was dark and the horizon overcast with clouds and threatening rain. We endeavored to pursue a solitary track through an immense wood, but for want of sufficient light, we sometimes wandered out of the way

After travelling about 12 miles through this dark wilderness we fortunately reached a house, which we were glad to see. No beds being to be had here, we spread our blanketts on the floor and slept as comfortably, as if we had been on beds of down.

Sunday 15th The lowering clouds which threatened us last evening, now discharge their watery contents on the earth. But we rose early and pursued our journey through the descending storm: We now overtook a number of Officers, who had been to Lexington, and were now on their way to rejoin the Army. In company with these we pursued our journey.



Reflections on crossing  
the Ohio.

20.

About 12 we baited at — Reads: rested about 1 hour here, and again set forward, arrived on the Bank of the Ohio, about sunset. We are now in full view of the beautiful and flourishing town of Cincinnati, most delightfully situated on the bank of "the most beautiful river on earth." This large and populous town has risen almost instantaneously from nothing, it being (as I was told) only 4 years since it was all in woods. But such is the happy effects of that government in which every trace of Vassalage is rooted out and destroyed. To a real Republican, as I am how grateful how pleasing the sight which I now behold! To a man weary of slavery and the consequent evils attending it, what pleasing reflections must arise! —

The Goodly Land I see  
With peace and plenty bles't,  
A Land of sacred liberty,  
And joyous rest.

But this distant sight is not enough for me. My feelings I expect are something like those of Moses when he uttered that passionate prayer, recorded Deuteronomy 3 & 25. "I pray Thee, let me go over and see the good Land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain and Lebanon." With a pleasing hope of this desire being granted we left the Kentucky shore, and in about 15 minutes landed on "The Territory northwest of Ohio." On arriving on shore I could but thank God, who had preserved me through many dangers, and brought me at length to see a land, where liberty prevails, and where human blood is not shed like water by the hand of the merciless and unfeeling tyrant. Here are no objects of despair, deprived of liberty and worn down with continual toil! We seem to be gotten out of hearing of the cries of the tortured and the mournful voice of woe. We hear no threats of the inhuman driver, nor lashes of the loud resounding whip! We see no backs furrowed with whipping,



nor cheeks moistened with the tears of sorrow. We see no husbands & wives torn from each others arms, by worse than savage cruelty! We hear no fathers and mothers bewailing the miserable fate of their hapless offspring, torn from their embraces, and carried into perpetual slavery! Even the loud and bitter cry of parents and children torn assunder under such circumstances as these, reach not the ears of the highly favored inhabitants of this thrice happy land. But on the other hand, here, the honest and industrious farmer cultivates his farm with his own hands, and eats the bread of cheerfulness, and rests contented on his pillow at night.

The aged mother instructs her daughters the useful and pleasing accomplishment of the distaff and the needle, with all things else that is necessary to constitute them provident mothers and good housewives. The young man (instead of cowskin or some other instrument of torture) takes hold of an ax or follows the plough.

The ruddy damsel thinks it no disgrace to wash her clothes, milk her cows, or dress the food for the family. In a word it is no disgrace here to engage in any the honest occupations of life, and the consequence is, trade and manufactures increase. The people live free from want, free from perplexity, free from the guilt that results from the practice of keeping slaves. Thus they live happy, and their end is peace.

Monday 16 We left Cincinnati about 9 o'clock pursuing our journey toward Fort Hamilton. After traveling about 7 miles, we met with a remarkably friendly man of the name of Talbert. He over persuaded us to stay with him till the next morning, to which we at length consented. His kind and amiable wife set to and baked a quantity of biscuit for us to take with us on our journey. In the meantime Mr Talbot sent and collected a number of his neighbors, to whom I preached the glad tidings of salvation, from Luke 2 & 10. The attentive hearers behaved with seriousness, and I



humbly hope this word will not be in vain. Mr Talbert informed us that his abhorrence of slavery led him to take sanctuary in this country at a very early period. He appears to be a man that fears God, and treated us with uncommon kindness, for which may the Lord reward him.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>. After taking breakfast with these kind and friendly people, we committed each other to God and departed. In our way to Fort Hamilton, we were shown the spot where last May 12 mo, 8 men who were conducting provisions &c, to the Army, were butchered by the Indians. The Indians concealed themselves behind some high weeds and pawpaw bushes on both sides of the road; The first fire they killed 7 men. A resolute young horseman drew his sword, rushed on an Indian, and instantly killed him. He had but just time to execute this, when he was overpowered and killed, himself. The bodies of the dead were laid together in an heap, and covered with a pile of logs. I saw a number of their bones particularly a scull which had been mangled in a most frightful manner, with the Indian Tomahawk. A young man whom we saw at the place informed us that he himself was one of the unfortunate party, and from him I received the above account. About 4 o'clock we reached Hamilton. This fortification stands on the eastern bank of the Miami River, about 30 miles from Cincinnati, and nearly as far from the northbend. The Fort is built of large logs with port holes to shoot thro'. This is partly surrounded with an outer wall of considerable extent. This wall is composed of the bodies of tree's about 10 or 12 feet long, set endways in the ground, and sharpened at the top. It was my intention to have proceeded up this river as far as the mouth of Mad River, but not being very fond of lying in the woods we here terminated our travels north-westwardly, and returned towards the Ohio, pursuing our course down the Miami River, which at this place to be about 120 yards



wide, and affords a navigation to within a few miles of navigation in a river of the Lakes. We proceeded down the river about 5 miles, and lodged with an irish family adjoining the river. Here we got plenty of fish which are taken in great abundance in this river.

Wednesday. 18<sup>th</sup>. We set out early and travelled to and fro through the wild woods. A body of low grounds which we came thro' last evening, for beauty and fertility, exceeded any that I had ever seen.

I had therefore a wish to see the lands on the hights. For this purpose we ascended the highest hills we could find, and to my great astonishment, found the lands here in no respect inferior to the low grounds. The growth being mostly walnut, was amazing large, buckeye, sugar-tree and white Ash abounded here also. Scarcely any undergrowth but pawpaw was to be seen. The earth we found light and green as a carpet. Wild rye and clover was here in abundance. Game we found in great plenty: Indeed it seems to abound with beasts, fish and fowl in the greatest abundance.

After riding several miles thro' these rich but uninhabited lands, we returned to the river and pursued our course.

*Of an old  
fletcher* About 11 o'clock we came to Dunlap's station. Here the river makes a large bend in form of a horse shoe and encircles a beautiful fertile flat of considerable extent. I have often observed while travelling through this country a number of round hillocks, raised from 15 feet high and under, and from 50 to an hundred yards round them. It seems evident that these places are not natural, but are the work of men. The only question seems to be "what they were made for"? Some have supposed they were once places of defence, but the most probable opinion is, that they are burying places of the former inhabitants of this country. On digging into these, I am informed great quantities of bones are found, lying in a confused promiscuous manner. Some Authors inform us that once in



ten years the Indians collect the bones of their dead, and bring them all to one place, and bury them, Thus they proceed putting one layer over another, till they get them to the height above mentioned. — An object however of a different kind now presents itself to our view. In the bend or horse shoe above mentioned is a neck of land about 400 or 500 yards wide. Across this neck of land lies an old wall joining the river at each end, and enclosing I suppose about 100 Acres of land. This wall is composed of earth dug from the outside where a ditch of some depth is still discernable. The wall at present is so mouldered down that a man could easily ride over it. It is however about 10 feet, as near as I can judge in perpendicular height, and gives growth to a number of large trees. In one place I observe a breach in the wall, about 60 feet wide where I suppose the gate formerly stood, through which the people passed in and out of this stronghold. Compared with this, what feeble and insignificant works are those of Fort Hamilton or Fort Washington? They are no more in comparison to it, than a rail fence, is, to a brick wall.

We travelled down the Miami river from the old fortification, pursuing our course to the Ohio — our only guide being, the river, for path we had none, I have however reason to believe, that there had in former ages been a road leading along the very course we were going. My reasons for thinking so, were these: I observe in a number of places, the river hill is pretty steep and comes quite down to the water. In such places as these I observed a level space on the hillside from 30 to 60 feet wide appearing as if the hill had been cut down & the Earth removed to the lower side. This appearance continued till we came within a half mile of the Ohio, where I thought I could discover the traces of an Old Town.

It is probable that the appearance alluded to, was once a high road, leading from the town on the Miami, to the other on the



Ohio. But a vast length of time must have Elapsed since these surprising works were performed. The trees on the Wall in the town & on the highway (if such they were in reality) are as big as they are in other places.

About 4 oclock we arrived at Judge Simms' who has the disposal of this rich and beautiful Country. I hoped to have seen the Judge, and to have some conversation with him respecting the lands here, but neither him nor his deputy being at home, I was unhappily dissapointed.

*Observations on the  
Country NW. of Ohio*

Having now finished my tour thro' the Territory n.W. of Ohio. It may not be amiss to speak in general terms of the Country thro' which I have passed. From Cincinnati we found the lands near the river Broken, not very rich, a little sand, and some small pebble stones. 5 or 6 miles from the River, the lands were level, clear of stone, Soil rich, water good & a clear and serene air, As we advanced further, the lands continued level, but were not as well watered as they were a little back. Within about 9 or 10 miles of Hamilton, the lands I think are the richest I ever saw. The growth is mostly walnut, sugar tree tied together, by clusters of grape vines, which in this country grow amazingly large. From this to Hamilton is the most beautiful level that ever my Eyes beheld—the soil is rich, free from swampy or marshy ground & the growth mostly hickory.

Near Hamilton we saw several Parrara"as they are called— They are large tracts of fine rich Land without trees & producing as fine grass as the best of meadows. From Hamilton down the Miami River to the Ohio, the lands exceed discription. Indeed this country of all others that I ever saw, seems best calculated for Earthly happiness. If you have a desire to raise great quantities of Corn, wheat or other grain, here is perhaps the best soil in the world inviting your industry. If you prefer the raising Cattle or



feeding large flocks of sheep, here the beautiful & green parara Excites your wonder & claims your attention! If wearied with toil, you seek the bank of the river as a place of rest, here the fishes sporting in the limped stream invite you to cast in your hook, and draw forth nourishment for yourself or your family. The most Excellent fowl perch in the trees & flutter in the waters, while these immense woods produce innumerable quantities of the most Excellent venison— Amid'st this rich, this pleasing variety, he must be undeserving the name of man, who will want the Common Comforts of Life. Glad should I have been to have had a little more time to have pleased my Eyes with a view of this delightful Country. But circumstances call me hence. I must now take off mine Eyes & turn them another way, & for the present bid adieu to this delightful Land Sacred to Liberty, nor stained with the crimson dye of blood! A Land where Slavery, the present disgrace, and future scourge of America, should not be permitted to come. This ardent wish I at length see accomplished & in this infant Country behold the features of true felicity & greatness. Here I see genuine Liberty and National Happiness growing up together, on the firm foundation & under the guardian protection of Constitutional Authority!

Yes, I anticipate O, Land, the rising Glory of thy unequalled fame! Thy forests now wild & uncultivated, soon shall the hand of industry sow with Golden grain. Thy unequalled soil, cultivated by the fostering hands of Freeman, shall E'er long display its beauties & yield an increase worthy a Land of Liberty. Thy stately tree's, habituated for ages to lie and rot, shall e'er long raise the lofty dome & be fashioned into curious workmanship, by the hand of the ingenious artist

Thy large and noble rivers, which silently flow in gentle currents, Shall e'er long waft thy rich produce to distant markets



in foreign climes— And thou Beautiful Ohio shalt stand, an impenetrable barrier, to guard this Sacred Land! And tho' the tears of the oppressed on thy South-Eastern border, may help increase thy chrystal tide, Yet the galling Yoke, should it attempt to cross thy Current, shall sink beneath thy wave and be buried in thy bosom. The voice of the oppressor may spread terror and dismay thro' the Eastern & Southern States but farther than thy delightful Banks, it cannot, it dare not, it shall not be heard! Yes in thee, O thrice happy Land, shall be fulfilled an Ancient prophecy "The Wilderness and the Solitary place shall be glad & the desert shall rejoice & blossom as the rose— The glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the Excellency of Carmel & Sharon: For in the Wilderness shall waters break out, & streams in the desert— there the weary & prisoners shall rest together, & hear not the voice of the oppressed." (Isa 35th Job 3). I must now leave this fair land of happiness with offering to heaven this humble request. May the foot of pride never come against thee, nor human blood stain thy lovely plains. May the scourge of War, never desolate thee, or cruel tyrants raise their banners here. May thy aged never feel the loss of Liberty, nor the Yoke of Slavery rest on the necks of thy children. May thy gates remain open to the oppressed of all nations & may those that flock thither, be the Excellent ones of the Earth. and if the still continued oppressions of Enlightened Virginia, should at length bring down the just judgments of an incensed Deity, may it be, when I, and those that pertain unto me have found an Asylum in thy peaceful Borders.

We recrossed the Ohio at the North Bend & reached the Kentucky shore about Sunset. The Ohio here (as in all other places that I ever saw it) is gentle, smooth and clear, and as far as we were informed, about 3 quarters of a mile over. We rode down it after crossing it about 9 miles to Thomas Moseley's where we lodged.



Thursday 19th. When we arose in the morning we found ourselves on one of the most beautiful Agreeable situations, that I have seen South of the Ohio. This noble and delightful river, rolls its beautiful current, under Mr Moseley's windows, a full prospect of which for several miles Each way, presents itself to view. The point where the Miami mingles its waters with those of the Ohio is also easily seen, being about 3 miles up the river

Boats passing and repassing continually render the prospect still more pleasing & delightful. The bank of the river here, is at least 50 feet high, from the top of which, a beautiful level plain Extends itself, containing not less than 200 acres of very rich land, Nature seems to have formed this for a town, for which it is well calculated in every respect, except that it lacks good water. The river affords a never Ending supply, but the banks are of such a vast height, & withal so very steep, that renders it Extremely difficult to get water from thence.

*Of a vast work on the Ohio*

It is however an undoubted fact, notwithstanding these difficulties, that a town of considerable note, actually once stood on this very spot, what nature desired, art then, has supplied, These high banks have avenues cut extending from the water, about 100 yards, by which means this ascent is made gradual, and water thereby Easily brought from the river. There are about 10 of these cuts in the bank, being about 100 feet Apart. On the level above mentioned, I observed a number of places appearing, like old cellars, some of which were large & in a square shape, I suppose there were nearly fifty of these, In another place, a mount of considerable height still remains. Mr Moseley informed me, that human bones were found here buried deep in the Earth, as is the custom with us these cellars — these cuts in the river bank — these bones found deep in the Earth — the old high-way over the river & the wall on the Miami, are Sufficient to warrent a belief, that a civilized people, once inhabited this Country — for no



thing of the kind is practiced among the savages at this day. But who they were, how brought here, or whither gone, are matters which we must be content to remain ignorant of. We may form conjectures, but they may be wrong. I shall therefore confess my ignorance & be silent.

*At the Big-bone-Lick* Friday 20th We set out after Early breakfast, taking in our way the Big-bone-Lick, where we arrived about 1 o'clock— This is one of the principal Salt Licks in Kentucky, but being in a frontier part, is not worked at present. The Salt water issues forth out of a boiling Spring, with a very bold stream & Emits a strong smell of Sulphur, & has a bluish cast. It also dyes the Earth & stones over which it passes of the same colors, & leaves a white Scum where it overflows, But the most remarkable thing we saw here, were the big bones which gave name to the Lick, These we saw lying round about the spring in Abundance. and were truly of a most Enormous size! A person living at the place informed me, that the bones are mostly under ground, and are got by digging. It is probable that they are kept from putrefaction by the Strength of the Salt water, & by that means have been kept Entire from time immemorial. Deer about the lick are very plenty, and a few Buffalo yet remain. We left this place about 2 and reached Littles about 9, after travelling about 43 miles.

Saturday 21st We started Early and reached Col— Collins about Sunset.

Sunday 22nd Having some business at the Metropolis, I shaped my course for Frankfort & lodged in the Evening with a Mr Major about 3 miles out of Town.

Monday 23rd Mr Bryant (with whom I lodged), & myself set out for Frankfort, where we arrived about 9 oclock. We took breakfast at Mr Bryants, lodgings & repaired to the Capitol, where the Assembly of Kentucky are now in session. While the members were



collecting, Mr Bryant took me up the Steps into the Steeple, from whence I had a most beautiful view of the whole City.

Frankfort, the Metropolis of Kentucky is situate in a deep valley, in a bend of the Kentucky, and is washed by that River on the South & West. On the North, rises a high hill, Commanding an Extensive prospect.

At the East End of the Town, the Hill is low & admits a good road into the City, which infact is the only way that there can be a good road got to it.

A few very good buildings have lately been Erected in this new City. But the State House or Capitol is most worthy of notice. It is an Elegant stone building 3 stories high— A steeple on the top & a portico on Each side— the work is well Executed and it makes a noble appearance. I left Frankfort after dinner and about an hour in the night, reached Josiah Wooldriges with whom I spent the Evening.

Tuesday 24th I visited several old acquaintances, taking my leave of them all, as I expect to see them no more before I leave the Country. I came in the Evening & lodged with my kind friend John Moss.

Wednesday 25th I left Mr Mosses after breakfast— called at Mr Watkins & at Mr Locketts and arrived at my brothers a little after dark.

Thursday 26th. Attended with my brother a funeral in the neighborhood & returned in the Evening.

Friday 27th My brother and his wife and myself, visited Capt—Holloway & returned in the Evening.

Sat 28th Continued at my Brothers Sunday 29th Attended a funeral where I heard a black man preach, to the wonder and astonishment of a number of whites. I was happy to find that the prejudices against the poor blacks are less powerful in this Country,



than in Virginia.

I gave an Exhortation after the black man concluded, and my brother terminated the meeting with an Exhortation at the grave. The greatest decency and good behavior was discoverable thro' the whole Solemnity. O! when will the time come, when "Ethiopia shall stretch forth her hands" & those poor outcasts of men, be favored with all the priviliges of men & of christians? I spent the Evening agreeably with Mr Lockett & his family.

Monday 30 Mr Lockett & my Brother this Afternoon took a small hunt, in which I accompanied them, They killed 2 Opossums. 2 Turkeys 3 Pheasants, 3 Pigeons & 4 Patridges. If game is thus plenty, where the people live so thick, what must we think of the Frontier.

Tuesday 1st of Dec. Went in company with my brother to Woodford Court. Here I met with Mr Charles Bailey, with whom I made an agreement to start for Virginia on Friday next. Just as we were about to leave the C. House, came on a violent storm of Thunder, wind & rain, thro which we returned to my brothers.

Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd. I spent in getting my horse shod & fixing to start for home.

Friday 4th I took leave of my brothers family, himself & Sister Frances accompanying me some distance. At Mr Locketts, I met with Mr Bailey & Thos Porter & we set out from thence about 11 O'clock & proceeded for the Crab Orchard. My Brother & me now took an affectionate leave of Each other & parted. We got to Wm Bryants about 7 at night.

Satt 5th We pursued our journey to the Crab Orchard where we arrived a little after dark.

Sund—6th We left the Crab Orchard about break of day,—the weather intensely cold & ground frozen, rendered it bad travelling. We baited at Lankfords & pushed on again. About 10 oclock we



reached Rock Castle River in crossing of which I met a remarkable deliverance! My horse attempting to mount a Steep bank, fell backward into the river, but instantly rising again, made a second attempt & fell the second time & had well nigh threw me against a large rock—he rose in an instant & mounting the bank, carried me out safe, without the least hurt. It is very remarkable that in the midst of this hurry & confusion, I was not at all frightened, but felt my spirits calm, & was Enabled to keep my seat in the saddle. Not an hair of our head shall fall to the ground. without the permission of our Heavenly Father. We reached & tarried at Logan's Station.

Monday 7th We started as soon as we could see, through rain & mud, baited at Collins Station & reached Middletons.

Tuesday 8th Started as soon as it was light, The falling Snow, soon covered us with a white mantle. The roads are dreadful bad & our horses lame. But our situation is preferable to some others. Poor Women & Children! I feel much for you, who are wading thro mud, up to your horses bellies, while the Snow from above, benumbs your tender limbs. We baited at the Sta, at Cumberland River & reached Davis's in the Evening at the foot of Cumberland Mountain.

Wed. 9 We started just as the Sun began to gild the tops of the high mountains. We ascended Cumberland Mountain, from the top of which the bright Luminary of day appeared to our view in all his rising Glory, the mists dispersed, and the floating clouds hasted away at his appearing. This is the famous Cumberland Gap, where numbers have left the butchering Tomahawk. Here we re-enter the state of Virginia, after an absence of 50 days, during which time I have travelled to & fro, through these Western regions about 1000 miles. Only 4 days I have rested from travelling, the rest I have spent in riding thro this Country, in various



directions— having passed through the Counties of Mason, Bourbon, Fayette, Woodford, Mercer, Lincoln, Madison, Scott, Franklin & Hardie, Consequently my opportunities of Seeing the Country, have been pretty considerable. But as so many have given a description of this Country, I shall be silent on that head. We travelled a few miles in Virginia, and came to the Territory South-West of Ohio. We came in the Evening to Capt— here I met with Tho & his family with whom I spent the evening.

Thursday 10. After breakfast, I set off, passed the high Clinch mountains, ferried the river, & in the Evening, reached Major Orr's where we lodged.

Friday 11th Started early & reached Longs near Ross' Iron works.

Sat 12 My horse being taken unwell proves a great affliction to me. I am near 400 miles from home, in a strange Country, & among strange people. But I am conscious that my Almighty protector is near & he knows what is best for me. I will therefore cheerfully commit the disposal of all to him. We reached and took up at a Widow Andersons. Here we are again in Virginia having traversed the Southern Territory about 70 or 80 miles.

Sunday 13 We travelled on (my horse being better) and reached 1 mile below Washington C. House. *Almgden*

Monday 14. After a rainy night, we arose with the Light, & prepared for our journey, but to our great mortification found it snowing. But what was worse than all, my horse was stiff foundered. However my anxious desire to see my family, surmounted these difficulties. We set off travelled slow & reached Thompsons, 12 miles below the head of Helston. *[near Martins In Smyth Co.]*

Tuesday 15. We pursued our Journey, thro piercing winds, & over the mountains covered with snow & reached in the Evening.



Wednesday 18. Started Early, and reached New Dublin in the Evening.

Thursday 18. We started as soon as it was light, crossed New River in the morning & the Alleghenia Mountains about 2 in the afternoon. Here we salute the Eastern Waters.

We road down Roan Oak some distance & saw the surprizing effects of the freshet last fall.

So violent was the force of the Water, that it cut a new channel for the river and filled up the old, as we were informed drowned a number of Cattle, & did much other damage to the beautiful farms on the river.

Friday 19. We crossed the Blue Ridge & reached Capt Bufords. \*

*Bufords, in the N.W. of Bedford Co.*  
Sat 20. after getting breakfast, we pursued our journey, and reached Mr Chastains in the Evening, in Bedford.

Sund. 21. Our horese find difficult travelling this morning by the clogging of the Snow which fell last night, about 3 inches deep. We reached Mr Stovall's \* *In Abkhantay*

Monday 22 We reached Mr Gatches. *in Buckingham.*

Tuesday 23. Pursued my journey & reached Mr Francis Harris s. *in Powhatan.*

Wednesday 24. About 9 oclock had the pleasing satisfaction, of meeting with my family & finding them in health. For the mercies of the Lord, bestowed on me & them, may his name have endless praise! Amen.



J Smiths 3rd Journal  
To the Western Country.

Near two years have now passed, since a glimpse of the North-Western Territory, first saluted my wondering eyes. The fertility of its soil & the Liberality of its Government, Convinced me of its real worth, and immense value. A desire to make myself more fully acquainted with that Country, and a wish to provide a place to carry my family to, together with a design to Survey Some Lands in the State of Kentucky, determined me to leave my family & domestic concerns for a time, in order to accomplish the above purposes. I took leave of my family & friends August 31st 1797 & set my face westwardly.

About 12 I reached my Brother George Smiths, accompanied by my Brother & Sister Sublett, <sup>\*</sup> We pursued our Journey. At Powhatan *Pehr Sublett, and his wife, the author's sister* Court House we were Joined by Wm Sowall & James. About sunset, we reached the house of Mr Robert Biscoe. Here we found a number of People awaiting our arrival, to whom I preached from 2 Peter 3 & 14. Bro George was poorly. Friday 1st Sept. We took Early breakfast & started. The weather was amazing hot & our horses seemed scarcely able to proceed.

We however reached Wm Maxey's about 1 oclock, took Dinner & then rode on to Brother Gatchs. Here also we found a large company waiting for preaching.

Bro. Geo: being still poorly, I again attempted to preach from Rev. 22, 17. Bro. Geo: Exhorted a little after I had done, and Bro Gatch spoke a few words after him. A spirit of Engagedness came upon the people. Some shouted amain, while others were weeping bitterly & crying for mercy.

It was just 12 oclock when we lay down to take a Little repose.



Satt. 2nd The weather being so Exceeding & uncommonly warm, our Company by mutual consent agreed to lie by until the next morning.

Sund. 3d Took leave of our affectionate friends & started. Called & took Dinner at Floods Tavern — then rode on to Hunters. My Bro. & myself rode on about 2 miles farther to Mrs Stovalls

Monday. 4. About Sunrise, our company, assembled at the place appointed & having gotten from all our acquaintances &c, propose pursuing our Journey. We are now Five in number, Mr. Edwd Watkins having Joined us.

We took breakfast at Dr— priests, passed New London a little after 12 Dined at Lees & then rode on to Liberty or Bedford Court House, & took up at Old Tavern

Tuesday 5th We rose with the day & started

Breakfasted at Bufords, rested 2 or 3 hours & then set forward, crossed the Blue ridge about 2 oclock. Got dinner with a Dutchman & Lodged at McLannahans

Wed. 6. I was considerably indisposed by a severe cold. We started, breakfasted at Dunlaps crossed the Alleghenia Mountain, Rode thro' a poor country, gave 5s. pr bushel for oats to feed our horses & rode on to Sto banghs

Thursday 7 Having sweated freely the last Evening I feel much better. About sunrise we started, breakfasted Adr Hacents & reached Wythe Court House, or the town of Evensham in the Evening & took up at Johnstons Tavern.

Frid. 8 Made an Early start. Breakfasted at Cartrarines. Baited at Crows (head of Helstine)

From thence we travelled till late in the night before we could get any thing for ourselves or Horses. About 9 we reached the sign of the Blue Bull & took up with Meeks.



Satt. 9. Breakfasted at Greenway's— passed Abingdon about 12. Baited at Col Prestons Dined at Bouttons & took up at Hickmans on the Borders of Tennessee.—

Sun 10 We entered Tennessee — baited at Godards Dined at Yanceys & passed on to Klynnes.

Mond 11 Breakfasted at Hawkins C.House(at Rogers tavern) & reached Oriss in the Evening.

Tues 12. We set out Early & presently began to climb the steep rugged and rocky mountain of Clinch. Arriving near the top, we found ourselves in a Surrounding cloud, the contents of which showered plentifully upon us. We pursued our Course, crossed Clinch Mountains Copper Ridge, Clinch River & reached the big spring about 11 oclock. Here we got breakfast with Mr E Clesme, thence crossed Watkins Ridge, Powells River & in the Evening reached Cumberland Gap, Entered the State of Kentucky & took up at Davis's.

Wed 13. After leaving our lodgings, about 3 hours ride brought us to Cumberland River. Here we were stopped by the turnpike men, who demanded fees of        per man for admittance thro the turnpike Gate. We paid the money & went on intending to get breakfast at the Ford— But to our great dissapointment, could get nothing but a little milk & some mush made of pounded meal, & a little green corn— but a keen appetite made even this homely fare very acceptable. We took our repast & set forward, & crossed the river, which is about 100 yards wide. But the Drought has been such, that I walked quite across the river, & did not wet the soles of my feet— We baited at Middletons & reached Ballingers in the Evening, but the Station was so crowded, that we preferred lying in the woods.

Thur. 14 Started about an hour before day Breakfasted at Thompsons and reached Ch. Smiths in the Evening.

Friday 15. Our Company now separated, my brother & myself take the right hand road at Lankfords & the others the left. We



reached the Settlement of Kentucky about 9. o'clock. Breakfasted at Mr & rode thro the fertile lands of Kentucky, to Mr John Bryants. It was delightful to see the fine fields of corn, which everywhere presented themselves to our view. What a surprizing difference there is between the produce of these lands & those of the back part of Virginia. The people are kind & hospitable to strangers & plenty is the blessing they enjoy.

Sat 16. Accompanied by Mr Bryant, my Brother & myself pursued our Journey to our Brothers, where we arrived in the Evening. The pleasure we enjoyed on meeting with a Brother whom we had not seen for several years, can only be conceived by those who have experienced the like Sensation.

Sunday 17 News of our arrival flew like lightening thro the neighborhood. A meeting was instantly appointed for us at Mount Pleasant M H. A large Audience collected to whom we preached, my Bro— from Ps— "He smote the Rock and the waters gushed out" & myself from Mark 1 & 15. The people were very attentive, and an old Methodist Preacher shouted Amain—

Mond. 18. My Brothers & myself rode to Lexington & returned in the Evening.

Thursday 19 We dined with Capt Holloway & returned & spent the Evening with Mr John Moseley.

Wed 20. Attended with my Brothers a meeting at Mt Pleasant.

Thursday 21. Bro Geo & myself rode into Woodford & spent the Evening with Mr J Watkins.

Friday 22 Returned by the way of Major Crittendens, Lexington &c. to my Brothers.

Sat 23. Visited Mr Thos Moseleys & returned in the Evening to my Brothers.

Sunday 24 Went with my Brother to Elk Horn M H and heard



Mr Saunders Walker preach from Isa 2. 10 & 11.

Monday 25. Visited Mr Hayden & returned to my Brothers.

Friday 26. Dined with Mr Moore This afternoon it turned cool after a Long spell of very warm weather.

Wed 27. Attended a meeting at Mr Watkins, & heard Mr Shakelford from Gen. 5. & 9.

Thurs 28. This & yesterday morning we have frosts that bite pretty much. The air Continues clear & the Weather very dry. A great scarcity of water prevails in this Country which is an evil, severely felt by man & beast.

I now prepared for my Journey over the Ohio. I had got every thing in readiness, my beast shod &c. &c. But a multitude of thoughts now crowded into my mind. My Brother had declined going with me over the Ohio, for want of a beast. Mr Sowell had intended to go with me, but I had heard nothing of him for some time. I now expected to be under the necessity of taking the Journey alone. Now, thought I, if sickness should seize me in a strange land among strange people who will administer me aid & comfort? If the hand of the murderer should take my life, who will carry the fatal tidings to my disconsolate family? If cruel savages should lie in ambush & privily deprive me of life, will any body do me the friendly office, of laying my mangled body beneath the silent Earth? A number of accidents may befall, what miseries I may suffer for want of a companion: At these & such like thoughts, I felt my spirits Sink: but calling to mind the motives that mov'd me to take the Journey,—The providence that had thus far watched over me, the promises that were still engaged to defend me, and the hope I feel that God would be with me: I was enabled to cast my Care on him, hoping in his mercy, and claiming his protection.

I took leave of my bro. & his family, and in the Evening, arrived at Mr Elisha Wooldridges— here I had the happiness to find



Mr Sowall. He informed me, he was ready to start with me in the morning, for the North West Side of Ohio. This proved like a reviving Cordial to my Sinking Spirits.

Frid, 29. We took an Early breakfast (after paying our devotions to the Most high) & started. We travelled about 40 miles & reached Mr Jno Hamptons late in the Evening.

Sat 30 We rested and refreshed ourselves, In the Evening I attended an apointment at Old Mr Hamptons, which had been made for me during the day. I preached to a considerable number of well behaved hearers from Acts 17. 30. 31. & then returned to Johny Hamptons.

Sund. 1st October. We pursued our Journey taking in our way a Quarterly meeting of the Methodists. Here I had an opportunity of seeing several old acquaintances of the ministerial character; among whom were Bro F Poythress & that amiable & pious young man, Bro Kibler. Here I also met with Bro McCormick, I spent the Evening with Kobler at a Bro Colmans.

Monday 2d. Bro McCormick, Bro Teal, Mr Sowall & myself set out for the Ohio. We travelled about 30 miles & reached a Little Village called German Town, about 8 oclock in the Evening & took up with a Mr Black.

Tuesday 3rd. We pursued our Journey & reached a Little Town on the Bank of the Ohio about 11 oclock. From a high eminence we had a view of that beautiful Country beyond the River— Charmed with its beautiful appearance, I longed to be there. We took some refreshment at Augusta, then took boat, and about 1 oclock made the opposite shore. The Ohio River of all that I ever saw is the most beautiful stream. It flows in a deep & gentle current: is from  $1/2$  to  $3/4$  of a mile in width— it is confined in high banks, which it seldom if ever overflows: The adjoining hills are Lofty, from whence a charming view of the river & Low lands presents itself to view. How delightful will be the scene, when the banks shall be



covered with Towns, these hills with houses, & this noble Noble stream with the rich produce of these fertile & fruitful Countries?

We rode down the River 3 or 4 miles, to the mouth of Bull-skin Creek: then left the River, and pursued a North-wardly Route, thro' a rich & beautiful Country. The land, after leaving the River, lies high, & is very level, The trees, which are mostly red & white Oak, are the tallest and most beautiful timber I ever beheld. The Soil appears deep, clear of stone & wild pea. — vine in abundance.

It was very pleasant to see the Deer skipping over the bushes & the face of the Country clad in a Livery of green.

We crossed the Waters of Bear Creek, Big Indian and arrived in the Evening at Dunhams Town on the Waters of the Poplar Fork of the East Fork. Dunhams Town or Plainfield is about 12½ miles from the Ohio, the Land is fertile & water good. Here we saw the fruits of honest Industry. Mr Dunham is a Baptist Minister, who left Kentucky on account of its being a Land of Oppression. He arrived here last April & since then has reared several houses, cleared a small plantation, has a fine field of corn growing, a number of vines and garden vegetables an excellent field of wheat & a meadow already green with the rising Timothy. The old man seems to possess both grace and talents, with a spirit greatly opposed to Slavery. He thinks that God will withdraw his spirit from Such Countries & persons, who having the light resist its dictates.

Wed 4. We started from Plainfield pretty early & pursued a North-west direction. The Countries continues Exceeding level except near the water courses, where it sinks into deep valleys. The soil in general is rich, the growth being Oak, Hickory, Ash, Walnut, Sugar Tree Beach &c. About 1 oclock, we reached the Little Miami. Near this River, the Lands appeared to be much better than any we had yet seen. The Low grounds or bottoms on the river, are vastly rich & Extensive. The River itself is about 100 yards wide— the



Water very pure & clear, but rapid. We crossed the River and rode up the same about a mile, where we saw the walls of an Old Fortification. We then recrossed the river and arrived at Bro McCormicks about 2 oclock. His situation is most Agreeable & Delightful. The river runs within 50 yards of his house, which stands on an Emi-nence & commands a beautiful view of the river, & the rising hills on the opposite side, It would seem incredible to those unacquaint-ed with the clearness of these waters, to be told, that I stood in Bro McCormicks yard, and saw numbers of fish near the opposite bank of the river, indeed it is no uncommon thing, to see shoals of fish, of an uncommon size & Excellent in their Kind, sporting themselves in these Rivers.

In Bro & Sister McCormick we found the Christian & the friendly their hospitality & kindness seemed to flow from a generous heart Their doors were open to receive us strangers & their Extraordinary Liberality has deeply impressed my mind with gratitude. Devotion was here our regular Employ. The praises of God, resounded thro the adjoining Groves, and it was a pleasing reflection that the worship of God was now set up in place, that but few years ago, was the haunt of savages & the covert for Owls. The wilderness becomes a fruitful field and the thirsty hand Springs of water. The grass is green in their meadows & their fields loaded with golden grain. May that God whose servant they have recd & whose praises they celebrate, be their portion in time, & their happiness through Eternity.

Thurs. 5th We got breakfast & started down the River to see a Mr Dunlavy, respecting the location of our Lands. In the course of our Journey I had an opportunity of viewing more accu-rately the Ancient wall I mentioned before I went entirely around it & observed its form & dimentions. The body of the fort seemed to be an exact square. Fronting the 4 cardinal Points & including



about 22 acres. Adjoining the main wall is another on the North Side resembling a half moon, with a gateway where it joins the other wall at Each End. The wall is much mouldered down, but is at bottom about 20 feet over. At Each corner & in the centre of Each broadside is a gate way about 30 feet wide. Fronting the gate in Each broadside & about 40 feet within the wall is a small mound of about 100 feet in circumference & of the same height of the Wall. From the N.E. gate, two other walls about 30 yards apart Extend a considerable distance & then open into a circular form near the River. The ground is firm & dry & water Convenient. The plan appears to have been well devised & the work Executed with the utmost regularity, but conceiving it will give a more perfect idea of it I here subjoin its form —

We now pursued our Journey to Mr Dunlavy's.

After doing our business with him we returned— Mr Dunlavy attended us, to another of those old Forts, the form of which was altogether different from that just described, but situated in a very advantageous place. He also informed us of another which he thought a great curiesity, but we had not time to call and see it. On our return we met Bro & Sister McCormick, going to a Baptist meeting at Mr Smallies. We returned and went with them. Being strangers I was importuned to preach which I did from Mark 1.15. felt some Liberty— had some agreeable conversation after meeting & then returned to Bro McCormicks.

Friday 6. Mr Sowall & myself rode to the mouth of Cliff Creek & viewed a tract of Land belonging to Dr Turpin. From thence we bent our course up the East fork to a Mr MaLots, where I had appointed to preach in the Evening, but the distance being greater than we Expected, the road bad & difficult to follow, we did not reach the place till near 8 oclock. Some of the people were gone,



but others had waited patiently till we arrived, to whom I preached from Rev—22. 17. But felt so faint thro fatigue & the want of bodily nourishment, for we had not got any dinner, that I felt little satisfaction.

Sat 7. Mr MaLot treated us exceedingly kind, & when we started, accompanied us some distance & showed us another of those old Forts, which so justly excite the admiration of Travellers. We travelled down the East Fork thro amazing fertile Lands, & saw two more of those ancient Forts: one of which I will as far as I am able briefly describe.

The Little Miami in these parts, as it generally does, runs from North to South. The East Fork of that river runs generally from East to West, and discharges its waters into the Miami about 8 miles from its mouth. In the fork of these rivers is a body of extremely fertile, level land of about 6 miles in circumference, Lying in a kind of triangle, having the Miami on the West the East fork on the South & a ridge of high hills on the North East. About the centre of this beautiful level is a hill about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  a mile long from East to west &  $1\frac{1}{2}$  of that distance from North to South. At the East End of this hill (which appears as if it had actually been formed by art) is the body of an old Fort, 300 yards each way, Lying Exactly square, with a gate in each corner & one in each broadside which appear to have been about 50 feet wide Each. The walls of the fort, are at the bottom about 30 feet over, but are so decayed by time, that they are but low, to what they were once, a man on the outside & another on the inside might perhaps see Each others heads. From the north gate proceed two walls about 100 feet apart & Extend 750 yards in length till they Strike the Miami River. At the South West corner gate is a wall and a ditch of about 100 feet in circumference fronting the Entrance. From this gate also proceeds a ditch, which gets deeper as it proceeds, extending about



a quarter of a mile to water, where the ditch or trench cannot be less than 40 or 50 feet deep. — this trench from its various crooks and short turns is a great curiosity and may favor the opinion that its original invaders were not unacquainted with the use of fire arms — But the most astonishing work, seems to be the hill above mentioned & the stile of its fortifications. There are various avenues leading to the top of this hill appearing as if cut for the purpose. But the two walls leading from the Western gate of the grand Fort, seem most worthy of note. These walls are 100 feet apart, extending in a direct line, up an easy ascent about a quarter of a mile where they reach the Summit of the hill. Here they open out into a circular form & enclose 2 or 3 acres of ground. Thro' this circular wall, are several very gates, as if intended for only one man to pass at a time. This fortification is one of the most astonishing works of the kind that I ever saw, and is at once a striking monument of the ingenuity & corruptibility of man!

Sund 8. We rode to Columbia to meeting. Here I saw the most Extensive & Luxuriant corn field I ever beheld in all my Life. The Preacher not coming to his appointment I preached in his stead from Ep 6.14.18. We attended another of his appointments in the afternoon about 2 or 3 miles out of Town. & I preached from 1st Thes 5th &c. The people seems serious & attentive and after meeting ended, seemed loth to depart, & some of them having Expressed a wish for Preaching again, I gave notice that I would preach by the Lighting of a candle. A considerable Company attended & I preached, with Liberty from Mark 1st 15 I hope not without some good effects.

In the interval of our meetings today, I visited a woman who was supposed to be at the point of Death. When I came in I found her in a burning fever, but perfectly in her senses. I sat down by her & asked her a few Questions respecting the State of her soul & of her preperations for Death. On being asked whether she thought



she would die, she said with eyes flowing with tears, she did "I saw the Spirit of God" said she, & he told me I should live 12 days & this is the last. I saw also the Evil Spirit but he said nothing to me," I went to prayer with her & left her.

Mond. 9. We returned to Columbia, where we had occasion to visit Mr Smith the Baptist Minister. We breakfasted with Mr Smit & then returned to Bro McCormicks After we got dinner, we started

\* Rev. John Smith, - [b. 1735. d. 1816].  
 - he with <sup>Ylmer</sup> ~~Robert~~ Washington, was the first U.S. Senator from Ohio. - He performed the marriage ceremony, Dec 25, 1801 when Sally Smith, eldest child of the author of this journal, was married, on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth to J. B. Halsey.

See Appleton's Cyclop.

Born into what was the N.W. Territory.

bodies of fine rich fertile Land, well adapted to farming & excellent for meadow & the raising of stock. It may not be amiss here to observe, that there has not been a frost to bite anything in this Country till this morning, Hence it appears that this Climate, tho about 120 miles north from Lexington, is not near as cold, for when I left those parts, the Corn blades in many places were entirely killed. But on my arrival N.W. of Ohio I was surprized to find not the smallest symptom of Frost. To account for this surprising circumstance, it may be observed, that the soil of this Country is a little inclined to sand which is naturally warm. It is also, generally very clear of Stone, Whereas Kentucky being without sand, & at the same time has every where a bed of stone a little under the surface, makes it (as I suppose) subject to Frost, and those sudden chills, which are so common in that Country. During



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Tues. 10. Having sent for Mr Donnels, A Surveyor of the Military Lands, he arrived this morning & we bargained with him to do ours, return the works & send us a certificate in 8 months for which we agreed to give him  $1/3$  of the Land. We Breakfasted at Coe Paxtons, then rode on to Deer-field, took Dinner & pursued our course & took up in the evening with a Richd Kirby. The Land thro which we have passed today, has been various, a considerable part we found to be thin White Oak Land, but we found also some Large bodies of fine rich fertile Land, well adapted to farming & excellent for meadow & the raising of stock. It may not be amiss here to observe, that there has not been a frost to bite anything in this Country till this morning, Hence it appears that this Climate, tho about 120 miles north from Lexington, is not near as cold, for when I left those parts, the Corn blades in many places were entirely killed. But on my arrival N.W. of Ohio I was surprized to find not the smallest symptom of Frost. To account for this surprising circumstance, it may be observed, that the soil of this Country is a little inclined to sand which is naturally warm. It is also, generally very clear of Stone, Whereas Kentucky being without sand, & at the same time has every where a bed of stone a little under the surface, makes it (as I suppose) subject to Frost, and those sudden chills, which are so common in that Country. During



last winter the wheat in Kentucky, was almost entirely killed, while the wheat in this Country grew and produced a fine crop.

Wednes, 11. We started pretty early, baited at Martin Keeners & then rode on to Waynesville, This little Town is situate on the Western bank of the L Miami. The lots are sold to none but Actual Settlers, & tho it was only settled last Spring, about 14 families are already here. They have the advantages of good air, good water, & good Land. They are also on an Equality Pride and Slavery are equally strangers— industry is seen in all & the consequences are they are happy. We lodged here with a Mr Heighway an Emigrant from England, who with a number of his country people, suffered inconceivable hardships in getting to this country. It was curious to see their elegant furniture & silver plate glittering in a small smoky cabin. We have today travelled thro' a fine country—the Land is Extremely rich & well watered.

Thurs. 12. Mr Heighway, after compelling us to take breakfast with him, accompanied us some distance & put us into the right way to Old Chilly-Cothy. We pursued our Journey still north, over fine Land & streams of water, About 1 oclock we were saluted with a view of one of their Beautiful plains, which are known in this country by the name of Pararas. Here we could see many miles in a straight direction, and not a tree or a bush to obstruct the sight. The grass in the Parara, we found higher than our heads on horseback as we rode through it. After riding about 2 miles thro this Enchanting parara, we arrived on the spot, where the old town of Chilly-Cothy stood, of which scarcely a vestage now remains. We saw a few slabs and something like an old breast-work but so decayed & covered with grass, that it was scarcely discernable. The stumps of some gate-posts were still to be seen, but the houses were all destroyed having been burnt a few years ago, by order of the Commander of an Expedition against the Indians. We sat us down



on the green grass & eat our dinner of bread & cheese on the very spot where a few years ago, the bloody savages held their grand Councils. While we rested here, there came a man to us & informed us, that himself & his two brothers (who lived about a mile from the place) had found 60 Beehives, within a mile and half of their house! 3 of which they had taken the week before, & had gotten 14 or 15 Gallons of honey.

The Land about this town, I think is equal for wheat & grass to any that I ever saw. Having now travelled 60 or 70 miles from the Ohio, we determined here to put a period to our travels Northwardly & pursue a different route to the Ohio again. We returned about 10 miles, & lodged with a Mr Vaunts.

Friday 13th We took in our way the Town of Deerfield. It has 30 or 40 families residing in it. It is a new Town, having only been settled since spring 12-mo-. It is something surprizing to see with what rapidity Settlements are made & towns erected in this Country. This I suppose is owing to two Causes, 1st the fertility of the Land which induces new Adventurers to settle there & 2nd That excellent regulation which shuts out Slavery! this induces the mechanic & the manufacturer who chuse to settle in Towns to carry on their different Employments. O what a Country will this be at a future day! What a field of Delights! what a Garden of spices! What a Paradise of Pleasures! When these forests shall be Cultivated & the Gospel of Christ spread through this rising Republic unshackled by the power of Kings & Religious Oppression on the one hand & Slavery that bane of true Godliness on the other. We crossed the River at Deerfield and rode on 6 or 7 miles to Col Paxtons.

Sat. 14. We took breakfast & set forward & reached Bro McCormicks about 11 oclock. After resting ourselves an hour or two, we rode down the River to Mr Smallies & got some old corn to take



with us through the Wilderness to Scioto, whither we intend to proceed on Monday next.

Sund. 15th Was a fine Pleasant Day. I enjoyed good health, but having no appointment to preach, and there being no meeting near, I spent the day at Bro McCormicks.

But the thought of being all the Day idle, made some serious impressions on my mind, Especially in a Country, where my labours, probably might have a good effect. I walked into the woods in the Afternoon & on the Ruins of an Ancient Fortress Contemplated the vanity of human grandeur. Here are spacious walls, deep ditches, some straight, others circular & all manifesting such a degree of regularity as really surprised me. But where are now the performers of these mighty works? Alas! they are long since sunk into silence, & those who perhaps made the Earth to tremble, are now mixd with their mother dust. May that Wisdom, Ever be mine, which teaches her children, to lay up here, their treasure beyond the reach of human Corruption.

Mond. 16. After fixing up Bro McCormick, A Bro Howard, Mr Sowall & myself started for the Scioto. We travelled up the East Fork of the Little Miami about 12 miles & encamped in the woods. The Lands on the East fork are very rich, lie well, are of a soft light nature, & when cleared as easy to cultivate.

Tuesday. 17. We rose a little before day, fed our horses, and as soon as it began to be light pursued our Journey We arrived, about 8 oclock at a Little Town called Williamsburg, settled last spring by 8 or 9 families. Here we got breakfast, then set forward pursuing a course N. 75 East through an amazing level & sometimes swampy Country. This however as I was informed, is the only swamp worth mentioning in this Country. It lies about midway between the Miami & Scioto, on the waters of a Creek called white oak. The growth is mostly Gum, Maple, White Oak &c. After leaving



the Waters of White Oak, we fell in upon the waters of the Rocky fork of Point Creek. Here night took us & we encamped.

Wed. 18. We started as soon as we could well see, and about 1 oclock reached a house on the Bank of Point Creek, This house is the first we have seen for upwards of 40 miles. Here we stopped and got a Little refreshment. Paint Creek is a pure, clear stream & at this place is about 100 yards wide. It seems to be a fine stream for fish, as we stood on the bank & saw a fine shoal of them near the Opposite shore, which from the distance we saw them, must have been very large.

At this house, I saw a curiosity — it was the under part! of the Beak of a Fowl, called a Pelican. It was about 18 inches long & 9 inches broad. Underneath this was a natural bag which when the bird was killed held about a peck — The whole together seemed to be a near resemblance of a fisherman's Skimming Net. and this bird being one of those, which feed on fish, it is more than probable that the net is used in catching them. On the bank of Paint Creek, I saw, cut in the bark of a beech tree the Letters T L & T D 1750. From this circumstance it is evident some white man had been here as long as 47 years ago. But whether English or French, whether trader or prisoner, we cannot now determine. We rode down Paint Creek about 20 miles & for beauty & fertility, it exceeds anything that ever my eyes beheld. Here we travelled over Ancient walls, ditches, monuments &c &c, at the sight of which a considerate mind feels lost in silent contemplation. We arrived a Little in the night at Chilly-Cothy Town, & took up at Umpston tavern.

Thurs. 19. The morning of this day till 17 oclock, I employed in surveying this newly erected Town, It stands on a beautiful Level, Rich & convenient spot. The Scioto a Beautiful, clear, gentle River & capable of an extensive navigation waters it on the East side, Paint Creek, which is also navigable a considerable dis-



tance washes its Western Borders. The Streets extending from the Scioto to Paint Creek in a direct line, are about a mile in length. Again there are cross streets which cross the others at right angles. Thus situated it is not only a beautiful, but is also a most convenient place for a town, and if it be considered as situated in the heart of a rich & fertile Country, near the centre of the Limits pointed out for a State, & on one of the finest Rivers in the Western Country for its navigation, it seems evident that it will at a time not far distant be a place of very great consequence. The inhabitants of the Town (as I was informed) amount to upward of 100 Families, which at a moderate computation will exceed 1000 souls. This has been effected in about 12 months. If these be the fruits of a free Government, may Despotism & Slavery be banished from the world & the blessings of Liberty universally prevail! Here I saw and had a Little Conversation, with some of savage tribes, who had come to town, on a friendly visit. About 1 oclock Mr Sowall & myself, after parting with Bros McCormick & Howard set out on our return—travelled about 24 miles & encamped in the Woods.

Frid.20. Having taken a violent cold, I got sick, An hour or two before day it began to rain. We were in a wild wilderness & had unfortunately lost our way & got off from the road. When day came on we started & in about two hours, had the good fortune to find the Road. About 12 oclock we reached a house, wet, weary & sick—We stop'd dry'd ourselves, took a Little coffee & pursued our Journey. We reached another house in the Evening, but could not prevail with the unfeeling woman (the only one of this character, I saw in this Country) to let us have a bed, so I lay on the floor, but rested poorly.

Sat.21. We rose and started-- the weather still rainy. We soon got wet, but called at a house, got breakfast & dry'd



Ourselves. We then set forward & reached the Ohio, about 2 O'clock. Having now travelled between 3 & 400 miles thro this Country, I think I can form a tolerable judgment of the same & Will as concisely as possibly, give a general description of the same before I leave it. The Land naturally claims the first Place. Bordering on the Rivers, the Land Exceeds description: — suffice it to say, that the soil is amazing rich not subject to overflow, unbroken with gulches, & gullies, as level as a bowling plain & vastly extensive. Leaving the Rivers, a high hill skirts the low ground — Reaching the top of the hill, another level presents itself to view. Here the Land is still amazing fertile, covered with a heavy growth of Timber, such as White & Red Oak, Hickory, ash, Beech, Sugar tree, Walnut, Buckeye &c. Here a number of small streams take their rise — these gently creep along through the winding Valleys, & in their course near these winding streams, form a great quantity of Excellent Meadow Land. These streams uniting increase their consequence, The meadows enlarge & extend themselves till they discharge their chrystal streams into the Rivers. As to mountains, There are properly speaking none — there are however high hills from which a beautiful view of the adjoining Country presents itself. There is generally but Little Stone. Quarries of Free Stone are plenty on the Scioto & Limestone in many places. The Land is generally very light, soft & easy to cultivate, Indian corn, grows to great perfection — Wheat, Oats, Rye, &c thrive amazing well. All kinds of roots, such as potatoes, turnips, & the like grow extremely well. Cotton also grows very well & Hemp & Flax, come to great Perfection Grass of the Meadow Kind grow all over this country & white Clover & Blue-grass grow spontaneously, wherever the land is cleared. A country so famous for grass, must of course be excellent for all kinds of stock. Here I saw the finest Beef & Mutton, that I ever saw fed on grass. Hogs also increase & fatten in the woods in a



most surprizing manner. Exclusive of tame cattle great numbers of wild beasts as Bears, Buffalo, Deer, Elk &c shelter in these immense woods, The Rivers produce an infinite number of fish, beside geese, Ducks & the like, Turkeys Pheasants, Partridges &c. are produced in great Plenty, & get exceedingly fat on the Produce of the forest. Honey itself is not wanting to make up the rich variety. Incredible numbers of bees have found their way to this delightful Region & in vast quantities deposit their honey in the trees of the woods, so that it is not an uncommon thing for the People to take their wagon & team & Return loaded with honey. The water of this Country is generally very good. The Rivers are clear as chrystal, & the springs are bold, good & in considerable plenty.

The air appears clear & serene, not subject to dampness & vapours, which render a Country unwhole      neither does it appear subject to those sudden changes & alterations which are so pernicious to health & prejudicial to fruits & vegetables. When these things are duly considered the country which possesses these natural advantages surely merits notice. But when we recollect this country is the Asylum of Liberty: that Cruelty has not stained that country with blood! That Freedom & Equality is the precious boon of its inhabitants: & that this is to be the case in future: surely this of all Countries, is the most worthy of our attention & esteem.

Sund 22d We pursued our Journey: Breakfasted at Rouses . Crossed Licking & the Blue Licks & arrived in the evening at Thos Howard s .

Monday 23. We passed thro Paris the County Town of Bourbon: reached Lexington about 3 oclock & my Brothers about Daylight disappearing.

Tuesday 24. We now prepared with all possible dispatch for our Journey home. My brothers started this morning for the



South Side of Kentucky River But I, having some business in Woodford went thither — did my business, saw Mr Sowall (with whom I parted last evening at Lexington) informed him we proposed leaving the Country Sunday next. We appointed to meet Sunday morning at Ch Smiths & I returned to my brothers.

Wed 25th. Took leave of my Brothers Family & left with an hope of shortly seeing my own. I met with my Bro George at my friend J Bryants, where we tarried the night.

Thurs. 26. Set out accompanied with my Bro & Mr Bryant. Rode to Stanford, the County town of Lincoln. Here I parted with my Brother & Mr Bryant & rode on to Mr Thos Hutchinsons with whom I spent the evening.

Frid. 27. Pursued my Journey to Mr Renfros, where I arrived about 11 o'clock. Here I again met with my Bro George S Smith with mr Forbes a Surveyor, prepared to survey my Lands.

Sat. 28. We set out before Sunrise, to run out my lines. Mr Lafon & myself carried the chain. It was nearly sun set when we completed our work, after being closely Employed almost the whole day, & what thro' fatigue & the want of refreshment, I was so exhausted that I was almost ready to faint. After getting a little nourishment I felt revived. I now had the consolation to find, that the different objects of my Journey to this country, were now happily accomplished. Consequently I find my thoughts occupied with a pleasing hope of a speedy return to my family & Friends in Virginia. Our Bro Geo S Smith, now took leave of us to return home.

Sund 29. We now fix up, and about 9 oclock, set our faces toward home. At Smiths we met with Mr Sowall. We travelled on together & reached Gatletts Station in the Evening.

Mond. 30. Pursued our Journey, being now Joined by Peter Mosely of Buckingham & three Jone's of Campbell. We Breakfasted at Ballinger's & encamped in Cumberland Canebrake.



Tuesday 31. We set out pretty early & reached the big spring in Powells Valley.

Wednesday 1 of Nov. Started Early— breakfasted at the foot of Clinch Mountain & reached Rogers Tavern.

Thurs. 2" We travelled pretty hard & reached Yanceys.

Friday 3" We passed Abingdon & Reached Greenaways.

Sat. 4. Left our Lodgings, pretty early, breakfasted at the sign of the Blue Ball & took up in the evening at Atkinsons near the head of Holstein. Here we met a company of Virginians, who (not at all to the honor of their State) drank freely, swore lustily & when we retired to rest betook themselves to cards, which considerably disturbed our rest.

Sund 5th. Not being able to sleep for noise we rose before day & started. The morning was pleasant & warm, but about sunrise it clouded. The blustering winds roared thro the Mountains, it soon began to rain, then to snow which it continued to do briskly for about an hour & then rather abated. breakfasted at Ingledoves, Lodged at Sayres.

Mond, 6. Was cold and blustering. We had several snows, now with piercing wind, fed at Peak Creek, crossed New River about 1 oclock, dined at Haydens & rode to Capt Craigs.

Tuesday. 7. Was very cold, we started about the break of Day, crossed the Allegania Mountains breakfasted at Mrs Rots, dined at Mr Clannahans & rode on to McCrarys.

Wed. 8. We crossed the blue Ridge, just after Sunrise, breakfasted at Goose Creek & Rode on to New London.

Thurs. 9. Breakfasted at Priestleys & Reached Floods in the Evening.

Frid. 10th About 1 oclock in the afternoon, we arrived at Bro Gatches.

Sat. 11. We left Bro Gatches after Breakfast & reached



Mr McLauren's.

Sund. 12th. We pursued our Journey & in the Evening, I had the inexpressible happiness of meeting with my family, finding them well & no misfortune happening to them in my absence. For the their safe preservation & my own, may the L O R D have unremitted Praise.

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The Wish Realized— Deut 3. 25

1. For fertile fields & pleasant plains,

Where Liberty & freedom reign,

I left my native Land:

On rivers deep & Mountains high,

Far to the West I bent my way,

And left my friends behind.

———— " ————

2. At length by Providential aid,

A lovely Country I surveyed,

All clad in living green:

But like the promised land of old,

A stream, its swelling current rolled,

me & this land between.

———— " ————

3. To Heaven, I made my firm request,

"Let me, my God, let me be blest,

And o'er the Jordan go'

That goodly land, O, let me see,

Where tyrants bow to Liberty,

And bliss succeed to woe.

———— " ————

4. This rolling Current, now I viewed,

And o'er the yielding water flood,

A passage safe, I found.

With pleasing rapture now I spied,

A landscape fair, on every side,

And Heaven had blessed the ground.

———— " ————



5. This charming landscape, now I found,  
 Had rivers through & all around,  
 As Eden had, of Old!  
 The fields were fair, the meadows green,  
 The fountains clear, the waters clean,  
 And milk & honey flowed.

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6. Here Freedom & her Sons rejoice,  
 They raise to Heaven their tuneful voice,  
 In sacred songs of praise:  
 But Lo! Beyond the bordering flood,  
 The grim oppressor, stained with blood,  
 Envies, but cant enjoy.

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7. But soon this Earth shall decay  
 Nature herself grow old & die,  
 And vengeance shall be hurled  
 These fertile fields, their end shall know,  
 These noble rivers cease to flow,  
 And ruin seize the world.

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8. Come now, my soul, thy faith expand,  
 View the fair fields at Gods right hand,  
 Decked in Eternal Bloom:  
 See the pure Stream of Life arise,  
 That waters that blest Paradise,  
 Like chrystal from the throne!

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9. None but the free born Sons of grace,  
Can find in Paradise a place,

All others must retire:

The slaves of sin, the heirs of hell,

Beyond the gulf, must ever dwell,

And sink in endless fire.

———— " ————



Verses addressed by the Rev. James Smith  
to a friend or relative on the eve of emigration  
from Powhatan Co. Virginia to Kentucky.

1. Dear Sally, since it must be so  
That I must stay and Sally go  
To some far western land;  
While thus I take my last farewell  
I venture my sad fears to tell  
But with a trembling hand.
- 2 Sweet were the hours I've spent with you.  
My youthful love, still strong and true  
Explains your dangerous road  
This, with the thought that we must part,  
Lies heavy on my wounded heart  
And awful scenes forebode.
3. Our rapid march, broad and deep  
Our mountains craggy, rocky, steep,  
Your rugged paths must lead:  
These things, if circumstantially viewed  
Are great for female fortitude  
The female stranger to try.



Q. That Sally yet would stay  
And shun the ills of such a way  
In peaceful Powhatan!

No Indians here, nor hanging rocks  
Nor mountains with their snowy tops  
But love and pleasure reign.

But should you happily succeed  
And from their toils and dangers free  
The Port of Redstone gain,

There scenes of horror, dangers new  
With all their terrors rush to view  
And merge my heart with pain.

Embarked upon the crystal tide  
Ours waters smoothly glide

To waft you gently down,  
But see the agitated clouds,  
Some lofty columns, dusky shrouds,  
While Phobos seems to frown.



Now howling winds incessant blow  
The storm descends, the waters flow  
The dashing waves arise!  
The lightning blazes, the thunders roar  
The drifting boat is cast ashore  
Deaf to your piercing cries.

Now from behind the laurel grove  
The murderous savages are seen  
A dismal sight to view!  
While some are wounded, others slain,  
The few survivors they retain  
Oh! what becomes of you.

Does Sally lie among the dead?  
Or is she with the captives led?  
Under a fiery glow?

And yet to save a life denied  
Would she become a savage's bride  
Or live her days a slave



But hence, ! away, ye horrors van !

They are the phantoms of my brain

Yon Smoking now appears

The cheerful boat salutes the lung

Overjoyed, methinks, I see you stand

And bid farewell your fears.

Oh could I then be there to see

And welcome you ! But, - luckless me -

In state prison I dwell,

Then Sally, write ! O Sally do !

And me regard as I will you !

And so, my Love, farewell. !



James Smith made a fourth journey to  
~~the~~ west in 1798, when he removed with his  
family from Virginia to Ohio.

They left home about Sept 26, 1798, and  
followed the Kanawha route - the same  
described in the journal of the second journey.  
A part of the way was travelled by wagons,  
the family, or at all events the women,  
riding in the "stage wagon" - As was the  
custom, when the top of a mountain was  
reached, a large sabbler was cut down and  
attached to the wagon, <sup>and dragging</sup> behind, operated as  
a brake.

When they reached the Kanawha River, near  
the foot of Gauley Mountain, they embarked  
on flat - boats, and floated down to its  
mouth - On reaching Point Pleasant, four of the  
party. (John Smith, Thomas Smith, John Sublett  
and Ned - the negro.) left the boats, and  
taking the horses came the rest of the way



by land. The party in the boats had much difficulty in getting down the Ohio, on account of low water, and one of the boats was stove in. - They arrived at Columbus, near the mouth of the Little Miami, Nov. 7, 1798, having been six weeks on the way. -

At this time the boat landed, Mrs. Walcott, who afterwards married Sally Smith, was standing on the bank of the river and saw the family for the first time.

There were no improvements on the land which he had purchased in Warren Co., and he took a house at what was called Middletown Station, about half way between Columbus and Newton, and here the family remained until Dec 25.



1800., when they moved to the old  
homestead near Caesars Creek, as  
which a log dwelling had been partially  
constructed. - James Smith died  
in ~~1822~~ from the results of a fever  
contracted by going into the  
river to leave flax for rotting;

The old house was standing in  
1835 when Thomas Smith & his wife  
and Benwell Lynde and his  
wife visited it.



John Sublett, who accompanied the  
party from Virginia in the brother of  
Peter Sublett, (who m. Martha Smith) and  
husband of Miss Potter, ~~son of~~ Rev James Smith  
wife. - - He died in 1875, having made  
his home with the widow of James Smith

- It was he who shot the famous turkey,  
which was so fat that when it fell  
from the limb, it burst asunder.

He shot many deer and turkeys and  
occasionally a bear, in the vicinity of  
the old homestead.



